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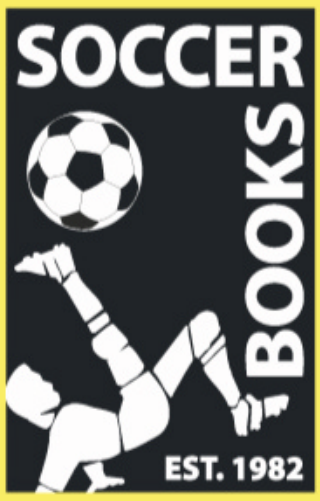

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HAT-TRICK HEROES: 6 NEW STARS

World Soccer

GLOBAL FOOTBALL SINCE 1960

November 2018

THE ENGLISH REVOLUTION

Jadon Sancho and the top kids heading to Europe

HEADLINER

THIERRY HENRY

Is he up to Monaco challenge?

SPOTLIGHT

ARGENTINA & BRAZIL

South America's new look

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OUSMANE DEMBELE

Barcelona's breakout star

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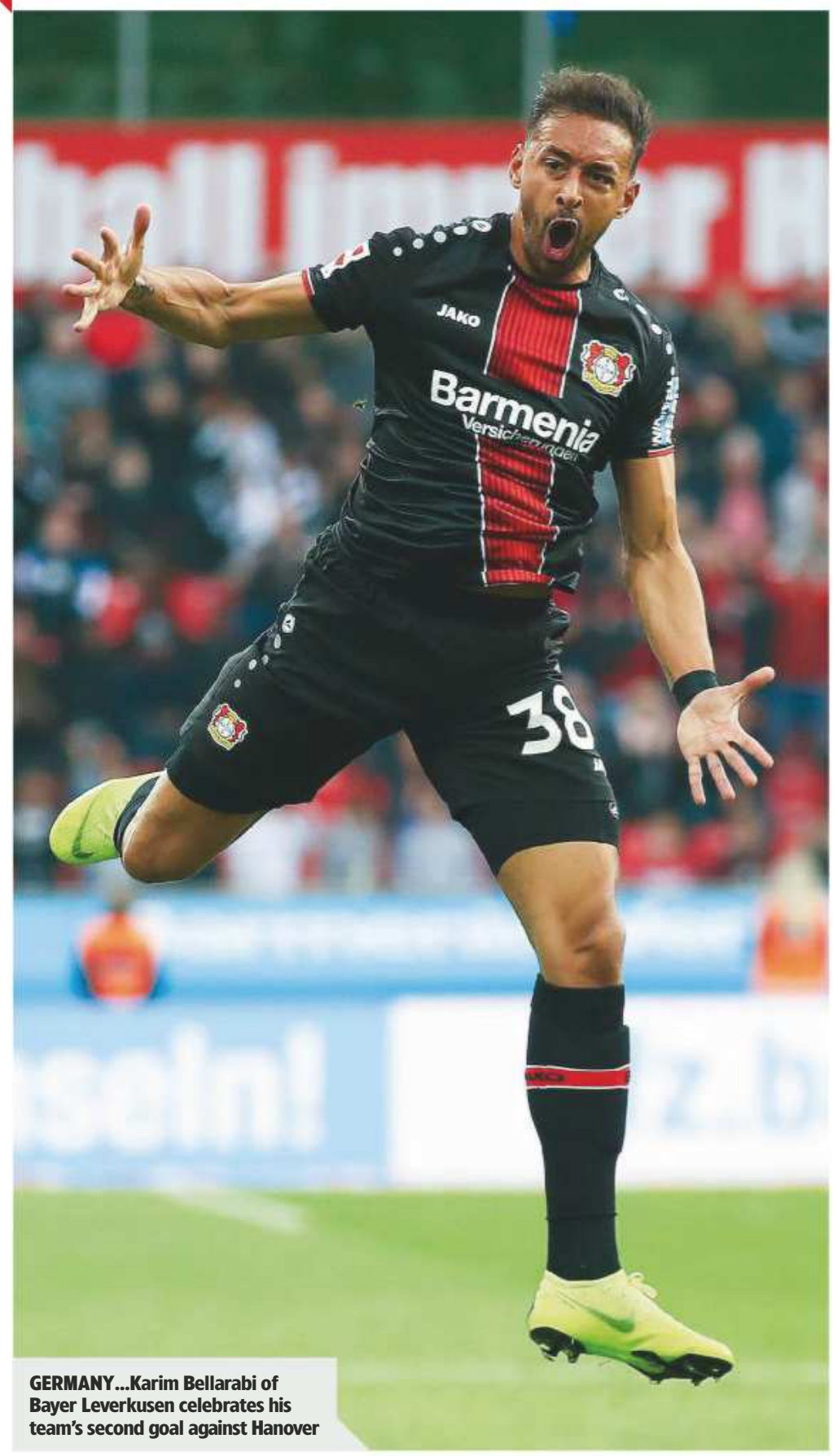

GERMANY...Karim Bellarabi of Bayer Leverkusen celebrates his team's second goal against Hanover

SPAIN...Sergio Ramos of Spain is tackled by England's Eric Dier in the opening minutes of their UEFA Nations League clash

BRAZIL...Cruzeiro fans welcome the team bus before the first leg of the Brazil Cup Final against Corinthians at the Mineirao stadium

ARGENTINA...the Estadio Monumental before River Plate's Libertadores Cup semi-final first leg against Gremio

ITALY...Juventus' Mario Mandzukic (left) wrestles with Valon Behrami of Udinese

SWEDEN...Malmo's Markus Rosenberg heads off the line during an Allsvenskan game against Hacken

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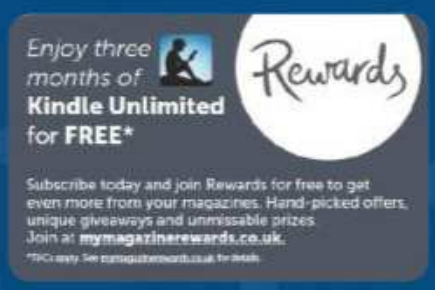

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FROM THE EDITOR

Cover stars Ousmane Dembele (page 55) and Jadon Sancho (p44) are just two of the exciting young players featured this month, along with coaches (Thierry Henry, p26), teams (Braga, p25) and countries (Madagascar, p65) who are making waves around the world.

But as is so often the case, football is much more than just the players and teams who feature on the pitch.

As we went to press with this edition, FIFA appeared to have kicked proposals for an expanded, Saudi-funded Club World Cup into the long grass. But the issue is unlikely to stay away for long. The world may have expressed outrage at the Saudi murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi but for UEFA the financial threat posed by FIFA's plan was far more distasteful.

> As is so often the case, football is much more than just the players and teams who feature on the pitch

Similarly, Germany's defeat of Turkey in the race to host Euro 2024 (p38) could be framed as a victory for human rights when in reality UEFA has opted to follow the money.

Not all stories are about cold, hard cash. In Iran (p32), the campaign by female fans is fascinating, while the allegations facing Cristiano Ronaldo (p24) could prove to be the moment when football came face to face with #MeToo movement.

Gavin Hamilton, Editor

10 SIGNIFICANT EVENTS THIS MONTH

1 FIFA council meeting p10
2 Thierry Henry takes charge at Monaco p26
3 Cristiano Ronaldo accused p24
4 England beat Spain in the Nations League p20
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8 Madagascar qualify for Nations Cup p65
9 Germany prepare for Euro 2024 ..... p38
10 Italy opens Serie C to reserve sides p22

RWANDA

FIFA puts $25billion tournament plans on hold

A possible schism between FIFA and UEFA has been avoided after FIFA opted to set up a taskforce to consider president Gianni Infantino's plans for expansion of the Club World Cup and creation of a global nations league.

The new competitions issue had raised more angst in Europe than in the rest of the world put together. European federation UEFA was concerned that an expanded annual Club World Cup – with revenues of $25billion from likely Saudi investors – would drain its Champions League of broadcast and sponsor income, while the continent's leagues and players' union FIFPro feared greater demands on players.

The controversial plan was effectively kicked into the long grass by the compromise solution taken by the FIFA Council, meeting in Kigali. The issue has been complicated by the prospect of monies emanating from a Saudi business or a sovereign fund.

A taskforce headed by Infantino and comprising the six confederation presidents will come up with tournament options to set before council in March.

Infantino said: "We have taken a decision to

"We will no longer accept this kind of media coverage"

Bayern Munich chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge hits out at press criticism of the club's recent poor form

Final...Real Madrid (in white) and Gremio at last year's Club World Cup

overhaul the Club World Cup and discuss a world nations league, so we have set up a taskforce which will operate under the direction of the bureau of the FIFA Council and we will then present the proposals at the next council meeting, in Miami, on March 14 and 15.

"Once we have finalised the proposals then we will see what commercial impact

Decisions... Gianni Infantino

these competitions will have.

"But before, [we need to know] whether we play the Club World Cup every four years or every year with eight or 16 or 24 or 32 teams, whether we play a global nations league with matches between teams from different confederations, and whether it takes place over four or six or eight matchdays."

Keir Radnedge

HEROES & VILLAINS

LUKA JOVIC

At 20, the Serb became the youngest player to score five goals in a Bundesliga game as Eintracht Frankfurt thrashed Fortuna Dusseldorf 7-1.

Five...Luka Jovic

MARCELO BIELSA

Leeds United's new Argentinian manager donated $2.5million to former club Newell's Old Boys to help build a new training facility.

"They are the club that formed me," he says. "I received more than what I gave to them. I'm paying a debt to them, not giving them a gift.

"The infrastructures of the institution help the team to prepare well. Two things are important for a team: the quality of the players and the quality of the preparation they receive."

ANDRE SILVA

The Portuguese striker scored seven times in his first seven La Liga games for Sevilla. Only Zlatan Ibrahimovic, with Barcelona in 2009, has achieved the same feat.

VINCENT KOMPANY

All profits from the Manchester City captain's testimonial next year will go to the city's homeless. "I've received much from Manchester," says the 32-year-old Belgian defender who joined the club in 2008.

Gesture...Vincent Kompany will help the homeless

ALEXANDER KOKORIN & PAVEL MAMAEV

Zenit striker Kokorin and Krasnodar midfielder Mamaev face criminal prosecution after hitting a government official with a chair in a Moscow cafe. Security cameras caught them attacking the man as he ate breakfast.

According to Russian newspaper *Gazeta*, the pair were behaving rowdily and were reported to be drunk and under the influence of drugs.

Accused...Krasnodar midfielder Pavel Mamaev

CHRISTOPHER WREH

The former Arsenal and Liberia striker, who is now coach of top-flight side Nimba United in his homeland, was suspended for six months for insulting officials when he was sent off during a league match against LPRC Oilers.

Wreh was angered by the dismissal of two of his players, Michael Fahnbulleh and Darlington Farley, who were given one-year bans for their actions during the game.

JORDAN TEZE

PSV's 19-year-old defender was suspended indefinitely by the Dutch FA after he spat at Germany captain Salih Ozcan while playing for Holland under-20s. "That's the worst thing you can do to an opponent," read an official statement.

Worst...Jordan Teze (left)

DAVID MANASSEH

Managing director of the company that represents Gareth Bale, Kieran Trippier, Luke Shaw and Jordan Pickford, he was suspended for three months and fined £50,000 after trying to enter into a contract with a player under the age of 16.

"Do you think he'll get in our front three? We've got a very good front third"

Central Coast Mariners coach Mike Mulvey (left) claims to be unaware of the club's contract offer to Olympic sprinter Usain Bolt

Memphis DEPAY (Holland)

While much was made of Germany's problems following their 3-0 loss to Holland, much credit should go to Ronald Koeman's side, who recorded a record scoreline against their neighbours and great rivals in Amsterdam.

The star of the show at the Johan Cruyff Arena was striker Memphis Depay, who supplied the corner for Holland's first goal, scored their second and also smashed the crossbar in a man-of-the-match performance.

It was another impressive showing by the player as he continues his rehabilitation at Lyon since leaving Manchester United in 2017. As Gianluigi Buffon recently noted: "The player who has impressed me the most since I arrived in France? I would say Memphis Depay, from Lyon."

The 24-year-old may have failed to live up to the great expectations of those wearing United's number seven shirt – having been shown the door by Jose Mourinho after he had replaced Louis Van Gaal as manager – but United have retained a buyback clause and could yet return for him.

Arnaut GROENEVELD (Club Brugge)
Nigerian-born midfielder who made his debut for Holland as a sub against Germany and scored his first goal in the next game, against Belgium – where he plays his club football.

Geoffrey KONDOGBIA (Central African Rep)
Valencia's midfielder made his CAR debut after five caps for France, with whom he won the 2013 Under-20 World Cup.

Dani OLMO (Dinamo Zagreb)
Capped by Spain up to under-18 level, the winger is considering taking Croatian citizenship. Liverpool, Milan and Borussia Dortmund are all reported to be keen.

Paco ALCACER (Borussia Dortmund)
On loan from Barcelona, he scored seven goals in his first four German league games, plus a hat-trick in the Champions League against Monaco.

Kai HAVERTZ (Bayer Leverkusen)
The teenager's sparkling Bundesliga form earned a call-up to Germany's squad for the Nations League games against Holland and France before injury prompted his withdrawal.

Iannis HAGI (Romania)
The 20-year-old son of Gheorghe Hagi looks to have inherited his father's free-kick skills after scoring for the under-21s against Liechtenstein.

ESM XI

EUROPEAN SPORTS MEDIA

SEPTEMBER 2018

HOW IT WORKS Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Media group select their first XI based on the best individual performances from Europe's top competitions. For details of how each ESM member voted, visit worldsoccer.com/esm11

SEASON RANKINGS
Cumulative votes through the season

GOALKEEPERS

Jan OBLAK (Atletico Madrid)	5
Wojciech SZCZESNY (Juventus)	3
Thibaut COURTOIS (Real Madrid)	2
EDERSON (Manchester City)	1
Rui PATRICIO (Wolverhampton Wanderers)	1
Roman BURKI (Borussia Dortmund)	1

DEFENDERS

Virgil VAN DIJK (Liverpool)	8
Leonardo BONUCCI (Juventus)	7
Thomas MEUNIER (Paris Saint-Germain)	6
Joao CANCELO (Juventus)	5
ALEX SANDRO (Juventus)	3
Sergio RAMOS (Real Madrid)	2
Vincent KOMPANY (Manchester City)	2
Manuel AKANJI (Borussia Dortmund)	1
David ALABA (Bayern Munich)	1
Jordi ALBA (Barcelona)	1
Trent ALEXANDER-ARNOLD (Liverpool)	1
Marcos ALONSO (Chelsea)	1
Dani CARVAJAL (Real Madrid)	1
Giorgio CHIELLINI (Juventus)	1
DAVID LUIZ (Chelsea)	1
Ashraf HAKIMI (Borussia Dortmund)	1
Lucas HERNANDEZ (Atletico Madrid)	1
Mats HUMMELS (Bayern Munich)	1
MARCELO (Real Madrid)	1
MARQUINHOS (Paris Saint-Germain)	1
Benjamin MENDY (Manchester City)	1
Nicolas OTAMENDI (Manchester City)	1
Nicolas TAGLIAFICO (Ajax)	1
Kyle WALKER (Manchester City)	1

MIDFIELDERS

Eden HAZARD (Chelsea)	13
David SILVA (Manchester City)	4
JORGINHO (Chelsea)	3
Thomas DELANEY (Borussia Dortmund)	2
FERNANDINHO (Manchester City)	2
ISCO (Real Madrid)	2
Blaise MATUIDI (Juventus)	2
James MILNER (Liverpool)	2
Bernardo SILVA (Manchester City)	2
Ever BANEGA (Sevilla)	1
Philippe COUTINHO (Barcelona)	1
Javairo DILROSUN (Hertha Berlin)	1
Ondrej DUDA (Hertha Berlin)	1
Ilkay GUNDOGAN (Mancheser City)	1
N'Golo KANTE (Chelsea)	1
Sami KHEDIRA (Juventus)	1
Luka MODRIC (Real Madrid)	1
Jesus NAVAS (Sevilla)	1
Nicolas PEPE (Lille)	1
Miralem PJANIC (Juventus)	1
Jadon SANCHO (Borussia Dortmund)	1
Georginio WIJNALDUM (Liverpool)	1

FORWARDS

Krzysztof PIATEK (Genoa)	9
Andre SILVA (Sevilla)	8
Lionel MESSI (Barcelona)	7
Marco REUS (Borussia Dortmund)	4
NEYMAR (Paris Saint-Germain)	3
Sergio AGUERO (Manchester City)	2
Gareth BALE (Real Madrid)	1
Roberto FIRMINO (Liverpool)	1
Lorenzo INSIGNE (Napoli)	1
Cristiano RONALDO (Juventus)	1

Keir RADNEDGE

THE INSIDER

AFC election will be key

Hopeful...the South West Asian Football Federation

Heard the one about the Saudi, the Qatari and the Swiss? It's not a joke. Not even a bad one. Just the triangulation of an international football power game which will be gathering momentum over the next six months as the world game stages three important elections next year.

While FIFA and UEFA look sure to return Gianni Infantino and Aleksander Ceferin respectively, the Asian Football Confederation election is wide open.

Infantino announced at the Moscow congress on the eve of this year's World Cup that he intended to stand for re-election in June. Last time around he promised to ramp up development cash and expand the World Cup to 48 teams and he has fulfilled his promise on both.

However, like all elected politicians, Infantino's popularity ratings have slipped. His personal style and "Europeanising" of FIFA's senior staff has irritated pockets of the game in Africa, as well as some in Europe. But how many other politicians can boast that they followed through on their manifesto? As a result, no one will be able to mount a serious challenge next year.

As for UEFA, the European federation's 55 members vote on February 7 and Ceferin has already been nominated by nine FAs to maintain his hold on the baton.

Now 51, Ceferin was a relatively unknown figure outside his native Slovenia before coming to power. Said to be variously a puppet of the Russians or the Turks or the Nordic nations, he has proved to be very much his own man – as all his initial supporters have discovered. The Turks, for example, are furious that, in their eyes, he "allowed" UEFA's executive committee to shun their Euro 2024 bid in favour of Germany.

Ceferin will run again on the basis of a solid start to his tenure and his cause will not have been harmed by UEFA's decision, when the Nations League was already under way, to step up the financial rewards. This is, after all, a tournament created for the member nations who put him in the presidency in the first place.

Meanwhile in Asia, there is a fascinating electoral battleground ahead of a vote in April.

The last vacancy was created when Qatari businessman Mohammed Bin Hammam was banned for life from football by the FIFA ethics committee.

Two years were needed for the dust to settle before Bahrain's Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa won the AFC elections in 2013 and then again in 2015. His success owed much to the support of Kuwait's Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah, who wields enormous influence throughout Asian sport via his roles as president of the Olympic Council of Asia, as president of the Association of National Olympic Committees and as head of Olympic Solidarity, which shares out the profits from the winter and summer Games. Sheikh Ahmad was then himself duly elected by the AFC as a delegate on the FIFA executive committee/council.

Power...Sheikh Salman (left) with Gianni Infantino

Sheikh Salman, who has a home in London, has preferred to lead the AFC from his Bahrain base rather than the confederation's official HQ in Kuala Lumpur. He has also reshaped the regional Asian federations to shore up his voting base, while simultaneously contravening the FIFA line by killing off the role of AFC female vice-president. He also persuaded the AFC to appoint him as its FIFA vice-president in place of Jordan's Prince Ali Bin Hussein.

In 2016 Sheikh Salman pursed the FIFA presidency and attracted 88 votes before being defeated in a second round of voting by Infantino.

But a year later, in April 2017, he was caught up in corruption allegations – which he denied – raised by Richard Lai, the president of the Guam FA and a member of the FIFA audit and compliance committee. Lai had been caught up in the United States' FIFAGate investigation and tracked through his banking records because Guam is a US Territory.

Lai was duly banned from football by the FIFA ethics committee and Sheikh Ahmad, though never formally charged or accused, appeared to take the hint. He quit all his football roles, including membership of the FIFA Council. Simultaneously, Sheikh Ahmad's time was also being consumed by squabbling within the Kuwaiti royal family which had spilled over into FIFA and IOC spheres.

The upshot of all this was to leave Sheikh Salman appearing suddenly vulnerable in the febrile world of Asian

sport and football politics.

Into the whirlpool now jumped Saudi Arabia, which had been hitherto pretty supine in world football. But all that was to change with the coming to power of controversial Crown Prince, Mohammad Bin Salman.

In June 2017, Saudi Arabia organised a coalition – which includes the UAE, Egypt and Nigeria – to launch an economic and political attack on Qatar.

One weapon in the sporting arena was an international PR attack on Qatar's 2022 World Cup hosting; another was trying to seize control of Jordanian Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein's West Asian Football Federation. When Prince Ali resisted, the Saudis pressured Sheikh Salman into approving their creation in September of a South-West Asian Football Federation (SWAFF).

With Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iraq, Kuwait, Maldives, Nepal, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, UAE and Yemen all involved, SWAFF has 14 AFC members and provides a solid support base from which Saudi president Adel Ezzat immediately announced his intention to challenge Sheikh Salman for the AFC presidency.

Ezzat is a fast-rising newcomer who has the approval of Turki Al Sheikh, the Saudi General Sports Authority chairman who has the ear of the Crown Prince.

Just as the Crown Prince shared the close company of Infantino at Saudi Arabia's opening game at the World Cup against Russia, so Ezzat shared the close company of other FA leaders at the FIFA Best Awards gala in London.

Incidentally, his appearance on the scene has not gone unnoticed in Doha, and Qatar could run their own candidate for the AFC presidency if only to ensure a split in the Arab vote.

Ezzat holds a challenging brief. Saudi Arabia has been in the world's headlines for all the wrong reasons: the ongoing bombing of Yemen and murder of dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi to name but two. So a priority is calming concerns about the Saudi attitude to Qatar's World Cup which has spilled over into the realm of TV sports finance.

Anger has erupted abroad over the Saudi-based pirate satellite channel BeoutQ, which has been broadcasting World Cup and Champions League matches in the Middle East and North Africa – the rights for which are held by Qatar's BeIN Sports, who paid royally for exclusive contracts.

If pirate broadcasters can snatch football's biggest money-spinners for free then the financial foundation of the worldwide game will collapse with ground-shaking consequences. And this is why ripples of concern are emerging within FIFA and UEFA.

> Infantino was attempting to rush through a mysterious offer of $25billion to sell control of a Global Nations League and an expanded Club World Cup

All of these issues converged just as Infantino was attempting to rush through FIFA Council a mysterious offer of $25billion to sell control of a Global Nations League and an expanded Club World Cup. Given the sums being talked about, the suspicion of Saudi involvement prompted Europe's FIFA Council members to raise the alarm and Infantino was halted, at least temporarily.

The game is unlikely to have heard the last of all this intrigue and vast sums – which is why Infantino and Ceferin have particular interest in understanding how the political winds are blowing in Asia. WS

WINNERS

GIBRALTAR
Four days after a 1-0 victory in Armenia secured a first-ever competitive win, they beat Liechtenstein 2-1 at home to claim a second three points in the UEFA Nations League.

RED BULL SALZBURG
Made the best-ever start to a season by any top-flight Austrian team, winning all 10 of their opening league games.

JEONBUK MOTORS
Retained the K League title with six games to play, making it four league championships in the last five years.

POLAND & ICELAND
Both teams were relegated from the top tier of the UEFA Nations League in its inaugural campaign.

ARKADIUSZ MILIK
The Napoli striker was robbed of a €20,000 watch at gunpoint after his side's 1-0 Champions League home win over Liverpool.

NUREMBERG
Became the first side since Schalke in 1988 to concede 13 goals in back-to-back away games in the Bundesliga, losing 7-0 and then 6-0 to Borussia Dortmund and RB Leipzig respectively.

LOSERS

Paul GARDNER

THE WORLDWIDE VIEW

Who is to blame for that much-hyped goalless draw?

Boring...Liverpool (in red) and Manchester City

I recently sat down to watch – via TV – the game we'd all been waiting for: Liverpool v Manchester City. It was a total bore and, frankly, an insult to the sport. Two of the world's best teams and two of the world's top coaches, and what do they give us? A 0-0 snore-athon with the first shot on goal not coming until the 62nd minute.

Yes, yes, I know all about how intriguing and fascinating it was, but it was still a colossal non event, lacking in just about everything that normally makes a football game worth watching.

I admit I had probably allowed myself to be seduced by all the gushing praise heaped on Jurgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola and how they loved to play attacking, entertaining football.

Oh they do, they do...but not when they are frightened they might lose.

Were we supposed to applaud when Klopp v Pep ended up as a stalemate? Evidently we were, for both coaches declared themselves delighted at the end of the game.

So how has it come to this? Two elite teams, bristling with attacking, goalscoring talent and they can't put the ball in the net once. City couldn't even manage it with a penalty kick.

Should we blame the coaches? At times it has seemed that this fixture should be listed as Jurgen Klopp v Pep Guardiola and that nothing could happen on the field without their commands, so maybe they should be indicted.

However, the roots of this malaise, of this deliberate dumbing down of the world's most exciting sport, go a lot deeper. Make that a lot higher. Right up to FIFA and the scandalously inadequate International Football Association Board (IFAB).

Decades ago someone somewhere in those upper regions of the sport should have realised that football was drifting in a direction that was not acceptable. This was not something that was being dictated or something inevitable, nor was it not necessarily something that a majority agreed with, it was just something that was happening.

Was everyone asleep? How could those high muckety-mucks not notice that goals – the very life blood of the sport – were disappearing, heading for the "endangered species" list?

In the first five editions of the World Cup, from 1930 to 1954, the average number of goals per game was 4.4.

In 1958, the average was 3.6 even with the ebullient Brazilians and Pele. Brazil won again in 1962 but the goal supply was already beginning to dry up and at 2.8 the average per game fell below three for the first time.

It has never been above three since, hitting its nadir of 2.21 in 1990. This summer in Russia it was 2.64, down from 2.67 in 2014. Any idea of a recovery in scoring power is doomed to disappointment as there have been

too many false dawns. In 64 years football has lost half its goals, so who is responsible for the famine?

The coaches were certainly not slow to develop defensive tactics. That was not difficult as organization at the blunt end of the team has always been easier than conjuring up goals at the other end. But they were only doing what the stats were already showing: that defensive play worked. You always had a chance of getting a goal to win a 1-0 game. Great news for smaller, humbler teams that couldn't afford to import attacking stars.

Those 0-0 and 1-0 games were a problem. They rarely presented the sport at its best. Even so, they were stoutly championed by coaches who made it clear that they didn't give a damn about the quality of the football. Winning – or

> Maybe the 1960s, the heyday of *catenaccio*, was when the sport should have taken action to reverse the anti-goal trend

rather not losing – was all that mattered.

And so the defensive part of football became its dominant force while FIFA and IFAB slept.

Maybe the 1960s, the heyday of *catenaccio*, was when the sport should have taken action to reverse the anti-goal trend. But football doesn't work that way. In fact, in terms of ensuring balance in the sport, of making sure that neither defence nor offense becomes manifestly dominant, it doesn't work at all. It allows the sport to drift when decisive action – the tweaking of a rule or two, a change in refereeing emphasis – is needed.

The 0-0 scoreline tells us exactly where the somnolence of FIFA and IFAB has brought us: to a sterile travesty of a magnificent sport. That did not simply happen; it was planned, and enjoyed, by the coaches. But the real villains are football's governing bodies which, with what amounts to criminal negligence, have allowed such a distortion of the sport to develop. WS

REPORTS WE COULDN'T MAKE UP

Charitable... Jack Ross

1 YOU GOAT-A BE KIDDING

Sunderland boss Jack Ross is rewarded with a goat every time his side pick up three points in League One. An anonymous fan has donated an animal to people living in poverty overseas on the manager's behalf ever since the team won 2-1 against Charlton Athletic in August.

Goat...worth three points

2 BEATEN NUNEATON

Leading 7-2 with 28 minutes left to play, Nuneaton Borough must have been thinking about who they might get in the next round of the FA Youth Cup. However, Halesowen Town refused to accept that their cup run was over and came back to record a remarkable 9-8 win.

3 A BLOODY MESS

Spanish fourth-tier side Zamora unveiled a new kit emblazoned with a design of the human circulatory system. Heartfelt condolences to all those who have to wear it ...

Kit...the heart of the matter

Squirrel...Benin's Junior Salomon

4 THE NAME GAME

Benin's national side have launched an online survey to find a new nickname to replace their current monicker *Les Ecureuils* – which translates into English as "The Squirrels".

The West African nation first coined the name in the 1960s to reflect a small nation aiming to climb high. But the Federation Beninoise de Football now feels it is time for a change more in keeping with the team's ambitions, saying: "The name given to the national team must resonate with the population and reflect our strong ambitions in the sporting world."

"It's not about the league they are in. It's about where they want to be. It's about the ambition and the drive"

Barry Ferguson, the new boss of Scottish non-league side Kelty Hearts

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

IN

Stateside... Matias Almeyda

EUROPE

Genoa named **IVAN JURIC** as coach for a third time after sacking Davide Ballardini. Serie B side Venezia appointed former Italy keeper **WALTER ZENGA**.

THIERRY HENRY left his assistant role with Belgium to replace Leonardo Jardim as coach of Monaco (See Headliners, page 26). **VAHID HALILHODZIC** took over from Miguel Cardoso at Nantes.

Milan announced a deal to sign **LUCAS PAQUETA**, with the 21-year-old joining the Italian side from Flamengo for €35m in January (See Headliners, page 28).

FRANCISCO replaced Leo Franco as coach of Huesca with the side bottom of La Liga.

Former Augsburg and Schalke coach **MARKUS WEINZIERL** replaced Tayfun Korkut at Bundesliga strugglers Stuttgart.

DAN ASHWORTH will step down as FA technical director in the new year and take up a similar position with Brighton & Hove Albion in the spring.

New pair...Dean Smith (left) and John Terry

Three days after announcing his playing retirement, **JOHN TERRY** rejoined Aston Villa as assistant manager after Brentford boss **DEAN SMITH** replaced Steve Bruce in charge of the Championship club.

MATHIAS POGBA, the older brother of Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba, signed a short-term contract with French third-tier side Tours.

DIETMAR KUHBAUER left St Polten and replaced Goran Djuricin after Rapid Vienna suffered three successive defeats in the Austrian Bundesliga.

Former Scotland skipper **BARRY FERGUSON** was named manager of non-league Kelty Hearts, while **JIM MCINTYRE** replaced Neil McCann at Premiership bottom side Dundee.

Cypriot side APOEL Nicosia appointed Italian **PAOLO TRAMEZZANI** as coach.

Czech coach **PAVEL HAPAL** took charge of Slovakia's national team after Jan Kozak quit following successive defeats in the UEFA Nations League.

CONCACAF

Former Uruguay international **GUSTAVO MATOSAS** was named coach of Costa Rica.

Task...Pavel Hapal

MATIAS ALMEYDA, who led Mexico's Guadalajara to this year's CONCACAF Champions League title, will coach MLS side San Jose Earthquakes next season.

AFRICA

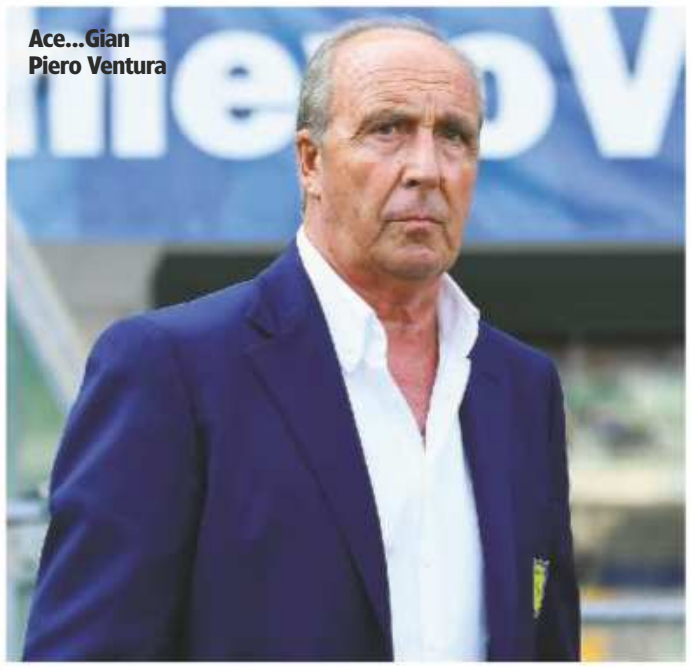
RENE GIRARD was named coach of Moroccan club Wydad.

ASIA

Former Croatia coach **SLAVEN BILIC** took charge of Saudi Arabia's Al Ittihad.

V SUNDRAMOORTHY was appointed coach of Laos' national team.

Having led Jeonbuk Motors to their sixth K League title, **CHOI KANG-HEE** took over at China's Tianjin Quanjian.



Ace...Gian Piero Ventura

Ventura takes over at Chievo

Ex-Italy coach **GIAN PIERO VENTURA** took charge of Serie A strugglers Chievo following Lorenzo D'Anna's sacking. The 70-year-old Ventura left his post as *Azzurri* coach in October 2017 following Italy's failure to qualify for the World Cup finals for the first time since 1958.

"I have looked at him as a model. He was a man with a great personality and charisma on the pitch and was always regarded as a decisive and firm referee"

Pierluigi Collina (right) pays tribute to Luigi Agnolin

Appointments, sackings and loans

EUROPE

- **MARCO VAN BASTEN** left his post as FIFA's technical director.
- Arsenal and France defender **LAURENT KOSCIELNY** retired from international duty.
- Russia keeper **IGOR AKINFEEV** quit the national team after more than 100 appearances for his country.
- Slovenia sacked coach **TOMAZ KAVCIC** after one win in seven games.

Quit...Igor Akinfeev

AFRICA

- Tunisia sacked coach **FAOUZI BENZARTI** four days after qualifying for the 2019 African Nations Cup.
- **AHCENE AIT-ABDELMALEK** and **ADEL AMROUCHE** quit after one game each in charge of South Sudan and Libya.

ASIA

- Australia's captain at the 2014 and 2018 World Cup finals, **MILE JEDINAK** retired from international football at the age of 34 after making 79 appearances and scoring 20 goals.

Gone... Massimo Carrera

Carrera sacked by Spartak

MASSIMO CARRERA left Spartak Moscow after a disappointing start to the season. In the Italian's first campaign in charge, Spartak won their first Russian title in 16 years. But they finished third last term and lost in this year's Champions League qualifying round.

He also had a strained relationship with midfielder Denis Glushakov and full-back Andrei Yeshchenko, who "liked" social-media posts that were critical of him.

OBITUARIES

In charge...Luigi Agnolin has words with Germany goalkeeper Harald Schumacher

Luigi AGNOLIN (1943-2018)
The Italian ref took charge of the 1986 World Cup semi-final between West Germany and France, and the following year's European Cup-winners Cup Final between Ajax and Lokomotiv Leipzig.

He also refereed the European Cup Final between PSV and Benfica in 1988, before retiring after the 1990 World Cup in his homeland.

He was inducted into the Italian FA's Hall of Fame in 2012.

Doug ELLIS (1924-2018)
Having made his money in the travel industry he was Aston Villa chairman from 1968 to 1975 and then again from 1982 to 2006, during which time he earned the nickname "Deadly Doug" due to his reputation for sacking under-performing managers.

After selling the club to American businessman Randy Lerner he became life president and was knighted in 2012 for his services to charity.

Sies WEVER (1947-2018)
Won three European Cup medals in the early 1970s with Ajax without ever getting on the pitch. The back-up goalkeeper played just 10 games in four seasons for the Amsterdam side, who he joined as a teenage prodigy after a senior debut aged 14 in the Dutch provincial league.

Peter VELAPPAN (1935-2018)
The Malaysian spent 29 years as general secretary of the Asian Football Confederation before retiring in 2007.

He played a pioneering role in the commercialisation of Asian football and was a key figure in the co-hosting of the 2002 World Cup by Japan and Korea.

Ilie BALACI (1956-2018)
The midfielder won 65 caps for Romania and captained his country in the qualifying campaign for Euro 84 but was injured and did not feature at the finals.

As a coach he won a string of title with clubs in the Middle East and North Africa, including Al Hilal and Al Nassr (Saudi Arabia), Al Shabab and Al Ain (UAE) and Al Sadd (Qatar).

Deadly...Doug Ellis (right) with Tommy Docherty

Brian GLANVILLE

THE VOICE OF FOOTBALL

Impressive...Raheem Sterling gets England's opening goal in the 3-2 victory in Spain

England revived by Sterling and "lucky general" Southgate

England's bold and largely unexpected win in Spain has resuscitated the team, given credit to its manager and suggested a far brighter future than might have been envisaged even after a better than expected World Cup.

Napoleon, it is said, when it was suggested that one of his generals be promoted to marshal, would always ask: "Is he lucky?" And it might be argued that in Seville at least, Gareth Southgate was lucky.

Lucky in as much as Raheem Sterling, who for all his unquestioned talents had not scored for England since October 2015, proceeded to score twice.

It had surely been something of a gamble to choose him, given the electric form shown as a late substitute in Croatia by 18-year-old Jadon Sancho, who has been sparking in the Bundesliga. But Southgate stuck in hope to Sterling, who rewarded him with two splendid strikes against the Spanish.

Essentially a gamble which paid off, I suppose you could say that had it not done so then Sancho could always have been brought on as a substitute. In the event, he wasn't needed, though it is good to have him in prospect for many a future game to come.

Overall, the team surpassed itself in Spain, not only collectively but at an individual level.

Marcus Rashford, whose finishing had been so awry previously in Croatia, was suddenly and impressively effective, scoring one goal in style and making another. Jordan Henderson and John Stones, both convincing in Croatia but suspended in Spain, were not missed.

Fortunate...Gareth Southgate

> The team surpassed itself in Spain, not only collectively but at an individual level

At centre-back, Joe Gomez made an uncertain start in Seville but settled down to be a dominant force. Any doubts one had about Ross Barkley were emphatically laid to rest as his inspired pass paved the way to England's third goal.

Harry Kane may not have scored but was crucially involved in two of the England goals and has plainly recovered the form which left him in the latter stages of the World Cup. Harry Winks surpassed himself in midfield, while Ben Chilwell asserted himself at left-back.

There wasn't a single player who did not emerge with great credit. This was breakaway football at its best and when the 4-3-3 was varied defensively late in the game, that system worked too, under abundant pressure.

Wembley, always a disputed property

The FA's failure to sell Wembley brought a profusion of relief and satisfaction. Yet, in purely historical terms, you wonder whether such jubilation was justified.

It seems largely to be forgotten that it has belonged to the FA only in comparatively recent years. It was initially owned by Arthur Elvin, who had a mere tobacconist's kiosk at the Great Exhibition at Wembley in the early 1920s.

The stadium made its initial mark on football history with the FA Cup Final of 1923, between Bolton Wanderers and West Ham United. Enormous crowds besieged the stadium and thus began the legend of the policeman on the white horse who helped to control and discipline, so far as possible, the surging crowds. The game, arguably, should never have begun, but perhaps a fear of consequent rioting saw that it did, with the fans pressing close to the touchline. One player remarked afterwards that the best pass he received in the game came from a spectator.

> One player remarked afterwards that the best pass he received in the game came from a spectator

Far from being the property of the FA it was for decades not only under independent ownership but under a dominant force.

I remember taking Ted Croker for lunch when he became secretary of the FA and hearing him lament the juxtaposition of Wembley and the FA, who were obliged to use Wembley for almost every England international match. He implied that he was going to change all that, but in the event he didn't – or he couldn't.

Eventually Wembley's owners allowed it to fall into dismal dereliction and when the FA bought it they spent a vast fortune in rebuilding it.

Abroad, it came to be known as the "Temple of Football", a nomenclature given extreme emphasis when in 1966 England won the World Cup, playing every one of its games at Wembley.

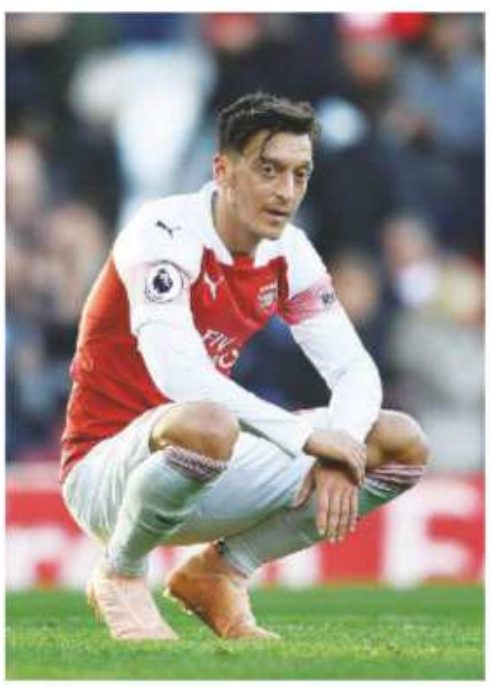
There was controversy over this, with even Stanley Rous, the FIFA president, opining that the game should have been played at Liverpool. But closer examination of the rule book showed that Wembley was the proper choice.

Wembley certainly has a magic appeal for fans. How well I remember seeing supporters of a provincial club involved in the Cup Final leaning against the window of the tube train to marvel as the twin towers came into sight.

Today it might be argued that Wembley is overused by football; not least in its staging of both FA Cup semi-finals which, of course, used to take place on the same day at two different venues.

White Horse Final... Wembley in 1923

Where now for the Premier League's £350,000-a week flops?



Crisis...Mesut Ozil has had his problems of late

What now of the colossally remunerated stars who can't gain a place in their club's team? At some £350,000 a week, Alexis Sanchez of Manchester United and Mesut Ozil of Arsenal cannot command a regular place in their respective teams.

Ozil indeed seems in something of a state of crisis at international level too, having resigned from the German team, alleging bias, the supposed consequence of his Turkish origins. As for Sanchez, such a force at Arsenal, there seems no apparent reason why he has shown such disappointing form at United, though there have been suggestions of disappointments in his private life.

Arsenal's devastating 5-1 win at Fulham was achieved without Ozil. Aaron Ramsey, star of the show at Craven Cottage, must be feeling deeply disappointed at the Gunners' refusal to increase his weekly salary – which would still be far inferior to the inexplicable sum assigned to the inconsistent Ozil.

Poor...Alexis Sanchez has struggled at Manchester United

As for Sanchez, his agent has already been contacting major European clubs. But whether they would be prepared to pay the kind of huge transfer fee which he cost from Arsenal, never mind the wage he is now still getting at United, is by no means certain.

Besides, is there any guarantee that what might loosely be described as his "romantic problems" would be alleviated by a change of venue?

● Read Brian Glanville's weekly online column at worldsoccer.com

Gabriele Gravina

Italian federation boss tasked with introducing B teams into Serie C

New Italian Football Federation boss Gabriele Gravina will have just two years in office to make a difference – a time-frame considered far too short by ex-Milan star Demetrio Albertini, who has been active in football politics for over a decade.

A deputy president of the federation from 2007 to 2014, Albertini argues that much longer is needed for meaningful change, and he is probably right, but at least Gravina will be able to oversee the completion of one reform already started, namely the creation of Serie A "*seconde squadre*" (reserve or B teams) playing in Serie C this season.

Italian clubs have always used their under-19 Primavera sides as a sort of reserve team, but a problem comes with what to do when a player turns 19 but is judged not yet ready to join the first-team squad. In another culture the player might be thrown into the senior squad on a sink-or-swim basis, but that is not always the Italian way, with coaches much slower to blood young talent.

Until now, such players have either been sold – with a buy-back option – or loaned out. If all goes well, the player gets invaluable, genuinely competitive

Serie C...Juventus under-23 Matheus Pereira in action against Pro Patria

Support...Demetrio Albertini (left) and Gabriele Gravina

experience so that if and when he returns to his Serie A club he is a more valuable player, both on the pitch and in the transfer market.

A buy-back option is fundamental. Take Roma and Italy international Lorenzo Pellegrini, who at 22 is one of the brightest stars in the Italian game. In June 2015, at 19, he was sold by Roma – where he had been since the age of nine – to Serie A side Sassuolo for a reported €1.25million with a first option, buy-back clause of €10m. Two summers later, having proved himself a more than useful player in 47 Serie A appearances for Sassuolo, he rejoined Roma.

But was that bad business, as Roma had spent €8.75m to buy back their own player, one who they had originally nurtured and developed?

At first glance this clearly looks the case. Yet in order to persuade a Serie A rival to take on a player like this you have to offer some sort of incentive, otherwise there is a risk that the club will take your young player and leave him on the subs' bench all season. They will argue that if they do make good use of a promising player, and in the process increase his market value, there is nothing financial in it for them, whatever his on-field contribution to their cause. With a buy-back clause, the smaller club has a serious financial incentive to make a good job of developing the young talent.

The idea of the *seconde squadre* is to avoid this situation and allow the big clubs to hold on to their youth-team talents rather than sending them off to the provinces for competitive football.

An alternative would be for the big clubs to either buy a Serie C club or come to an arrangement with one. But not everyone can afford to buy a feeder club, while such "arrangements" could run foul of federation regulations.

With B teams playing in the tough and very real environment of Serie C, clubs can look after their own players' development and ensure they get that desperately needed experience. They have much greater control over the destiny of budding youngsters who, if they develop well, can be introduced into the first-team squad at no cost.

That, at least, is the theory. So far the practice has proved rather different, with only Juventus under-23s opting to play in Serie C.

Other clubs have adopted a wait-and-see attitude, with many arguing that the decision to allow Serie A reserve sides to enrol in Serie C has come too late, leaving them with not enough time to put together the relevant infrastructure of a B team, including coaching staff, training facilities and a stadium.

Juventus under-23s are playing their home games at the 8,000-capacity Stadio Moccagatta in Alessandria, a stadium owned by the municipality of Alessandria and until this season used exclusively by Serie C team Alessandria, who were members of the top flight in the 1930s. Obviously, you are not going to stage reserve-team games in 70,000-plus seater stadia such as San Siro in MIlan or Rome's Olimpico.

> "I would be very surprised if other clubs did not sign up for it"
>
> **Demetrio Albertini**

Albertini argues that the B-team project needs time to be assessed, but adds: "I would be very surprised if other clubs did not sign up for it."

Underlining his words came a promise from Torino owner Urban Cairo, speaking at a *Gazzetta dello Sport*-organised forum in October, to the effect that "next year, Torino too will have a B team".

If Albertini is right, and if Cairo keeps his word, then others may follow the Juventus and Torino example.

For Gravina the *seconde squadre* concept offers a useful opportunity to prove that he means business when he speaks of reforming Italian football.

Paddy Agnew

Cristiano Ronaldo

Juventus star denies rape allegation

With eight Serie A wins in a row before the international break and victory in their opening three games of the Champions League group stage, things have been going extremely well on the pitch for Juventus and their iconic summer signing from Real Madrid.

Away from the game, however, the Portuguese forward has been accused by a 34-year-old US citizen, Kathryn Mayorga, of raping her in a Las Vegas hotel in June 2009, with lawyers filing a lawsuit seeking unspecified damages of at least $200,000.

The lawsuit accuses Ronaldo or those working for him of conspiracy, defamation, abusing a vulnerable person, battery, infliction of emotional distress, coercion and fraud, racketeering and conspiracy, breach of contract, abuse of process and negligence for allowing details of a previous confidential settlement between the player and Ms Mayorga to become public.

The Juve star maintains the sex was consensual and denies all allegations, calling rape "an abominable crime that goes against everything I am and believe in", adding: "Keen as I may be to clear my name, I refuse to feed the media spectacle created by people seeking to promote themselves at my expense."

Ms Mayorga made her allegations in an interview with German magazine *Der Spiegel*, claiming Ronaldo had invited her to his hotel and then forced her to have sex with him. She arrived at a private settlement in 2009, allegedly receiving $375,000 in exchange for a non-disclosure agreement which she claims has since been broken.

> "Keen as I may be to clear my name, I refuse to feed the media spectacle created by people seeking to promote themselves at my expense"

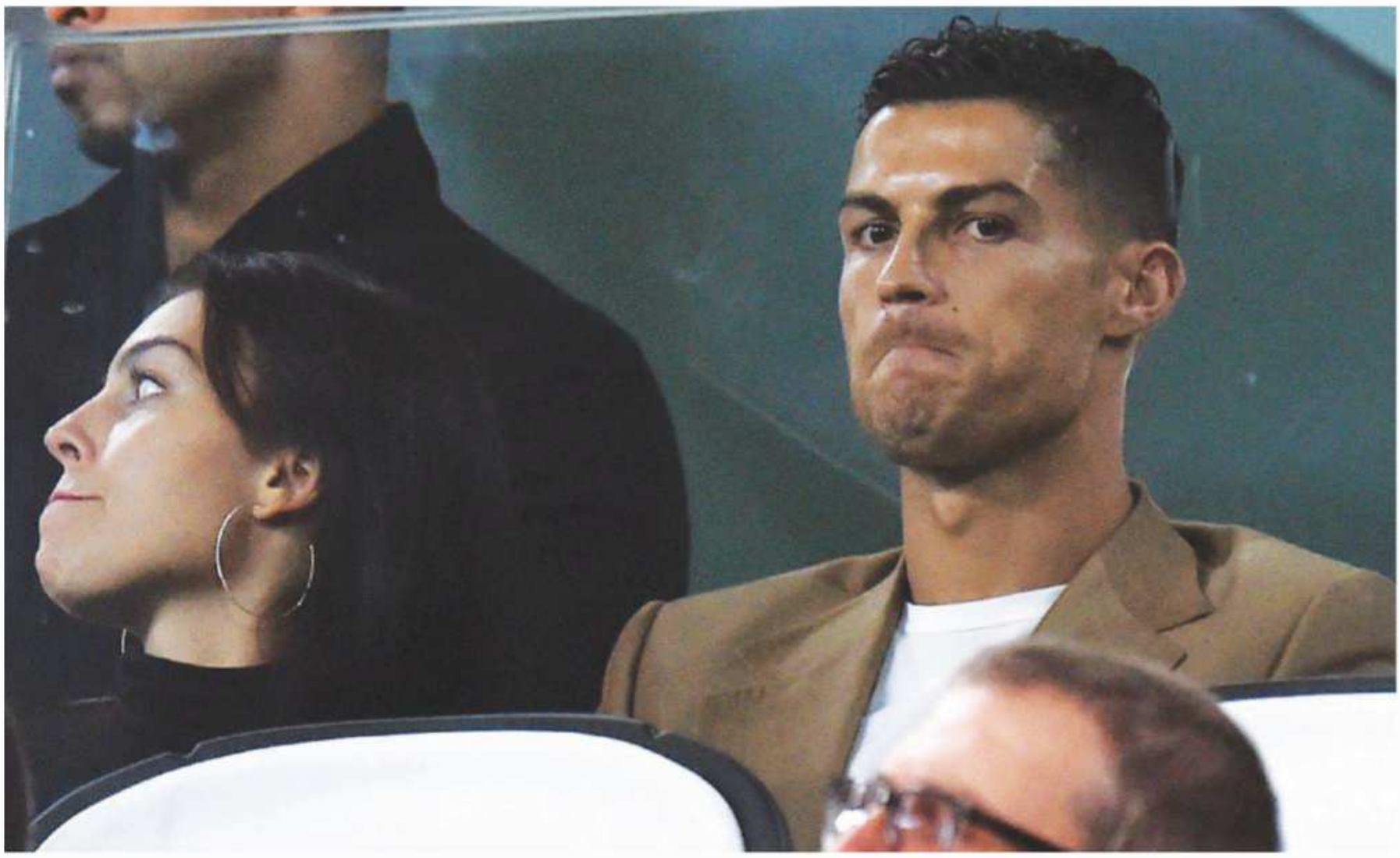
In a document filed to the District Court in Clark County, Nevada on September 27 by law firm Stovall & Associates on behalf of Ms Mayorga, her lawyers argue that the 2009 settlement is "void or voidable on the basis of incompetency, undue influence, coercion and/or fraud". In other words, her lawyers claim that due to the trauma of the initial sexual assault and due to a "subsequent threat to publicly and falsely accuse her of extortion and false accusations", Ms Mayorga "was incompetent and lacked the mental capacity to participate in negotiations".

She says she has come forward now, nine years later, for three reasons: a belief that she can find justice with a new lawsuit, because she has been emboldened by the #MeToo movement, and in the hope that the case could cause other accusers to come forward.

The German magazine says it has "no reason" to doubt the authenticity of key documents used in its story, which centres on a questionnaire that it says came from Ronaldo's lawyers.

A statement from Ronaldo's lawyer, Peter Christiansen, says the documents were "pure inventions" and the result of a 2015 cyber attack, during which "electronic data was stolen" from "dozens of entities (including law firms) in different parts of Europe", adding: "This hacker tried to sell such information, and a media outlet irresponsibly ended up publishing some of the stolen documents, significant parts of which were altered and/or completely fabricated."

Paddy Agnew



Statement...Juve's Portuguese star

Braga

Can the 'Arsenalistas' win the Portuguese league?

Second chance... Ricardo Horta

"I believe that by 2021 we can be champions," said Braga president Antonio Salvador at the club's open day ahead of the new season. And after the way the team has started this campaign, some fans believe they won't even have to wait that long.

Going into the October international break, Braga were joint-top of the table, one of only two unbeaten sides alongside Benfica, and joint-top scorers with Porto.

It is the latest chapter in a decade-and-a-half of exceptional progress since Salvador became president in 2003. Only four times in the last 14 seasons have the "Arsenalistas" finished outside the top four, and in that time they have won both domestic cups, competed commendably in the Champions League and reached the Europa League Final.

The club's on-field progress is mirrored off the pitch in their magnificent stadium, which is carved out of a former quarry, and a youth academy that is starting to imitate Portugal's biggest clubs in its ability to produce future stars. Xadas' multi-million euro move to Monaco has been put on ice after the midfielder's foot injury required surgery, but the 20-year-old is being allowed to leave because Francisco Trincao, who starred in Portugal's Euro Under-19 Championship triumph this summer, is considered an even bigger talent.

Braga's progress is all the more commendable considering the club's modest fan base, with attendances at local rivals Vitoria Guimaraes putting crowds at the Quarry in the shade.

So how have they done it? Two facets explain the positive evolution.

First, Braga have proven astute operators in the transfer market. With regular European football on offer, the team is an attractive proposition for players who didn't make it at Portugal's top clubs. Among the current squad, Ricardo Horta (ex-Benfica) and Wilson Eduardo, Ricardo Esgaio and Joao Palhinha (ex-Sporting) are all thriving. Braga also make clever use of the rest of the domestic market, picking up players who have shone elsewhere in the Primeira Liga but who are – often inexplicably – overlooked by the big three, with free-scoring Dyego Sousa being the most obvious current example.

Also on the transfer front, Salvador deals closely with super-agent Jorge Mendes, which has allowed a series of first-rate Brazilians to make contributions over the years.

Secondly, Salvador has been a good judge of potential when it comes to appointing a coach. Jesualdo Ferreira, Jorge Jesus, Leonardo Jardim, Sergio Conceicao and Paulo Fonseca all impressed before going on to achieve even greater success and renown at major clubs at home and abroad.

And the latest incumbent, Abel Ferreira, looks like another elite Portuguese coach in the making.

One of the new school of extremely erudite and eloquent managers, the 39-year-old is bright, ambitious and unafraid of speaking his mind. "I have the intellectual and financial freedom to say what I want and what I think," says the former B-team coach at Sporting.

> "I have the intellectual and financial freedom to say what I want and what I think"
>
> **Braga coach Abel Ferreira**

Elimination by Ukrainian side Zorya Luhansk in Europa League qualification is the biggest disappointment of his career to date, but rather than dwell on failure he uses the experience for the team's benefit, revealing: "After every victory, I remind my players of Zorya."

Abel can also gain comfort from precedence. In 2009, Braga were dumped out of the same competition at the same stage by Swedish team Elfsborg, but the absence of European football proved a blessing as they pushed Benfica to the last weekend of the season before finishing second.

Nevertheless, history is against Braga finishing top of the pile. Only twice has a club outside the traditional triumvirate won the league: Boavista in 2001 and Belenenses way back in 1946. In other words, the title has never been won by a club from outside the two major cities.

With Salvador at the helm, Abel in the dugout and a talented squad, Braga have given themselves a fighting chance of rewriting the record books.

Tom Kundert

Progress...president Antonio Salvador

Thierry Henry

Former star takes over at struggling Monaco

Monaco and Thierry Henry appear to be a good fit, with the 41-year-old taking his first major coaching job at the club where he burst onto the Ligue 1 scene as a teenage winger under Arsene Wenger's guidance.

Aston Villa had wanted Henry to replace Steve Bruce, while Bordeaux were also interested, but a chance to learn the managerial ropes in front of modest crowds at the Stade Louis II proved compelling.

"When the offer came it was quite logical; my heart talked," says Henry. "You know the connection I have with one club in London, but this is where I started.

"This club will always have a big place in my heart. So to be able to come here and start here again is a dream come true. There's a lot of work to do, as you can imagine, but I'm more than happy to be here."

Henry replaced Leonardo Jardim, who was dismissed after a 2-1 home defeat by Rennes that left Monaco 18th in the table. The Portuguese guided Monaco to the Ligue 1 title and Champions League semi-finals last year but was eventually undermined by the club's policy of constantly selling its best players.

Kylian Mbappe, Benjamin Mendy, Tiemoue Bakayoko and Bernardo Silva left last season, while replacements Youre Tielemans, Keita Balde and Terence Kongolo all struggled. However, Jardim's remodelled side still managed to finish second in the league, albeit 13 points behind Paris Saint-Germain.

This summer there were further player departures, with Thomas Lemar moving to Atletico Madrid and Fabinho joining Liverpool. Jardim wasn't helped by a mounting injury list and it would be harsh

Dejected...Leonardo Jardim after defeat by Angers

Beaten...Monaco's Benjamin Henrichs (right) with Adrien Thomasson of Strasbourg

lay the blame at the door of a man who will not be short of suitors given his previous successes.

An amateur player who began coaching in his twenties and worked his way through the Portuguese lower divisions, Jardim is totally different to Henry, who returns to Monaco as a World Cup and Champions League winner who is cherished at Arsenal as the club's all-time record goalscorer.

Having taken his first tentative steps as Roberto Martinez's assistant with Belgium, Henry's task now is to re-build and re-energise Monaco. Significantly, he has hinted that he will be leaning heavily on the ideas of Pep Guardiola, his coach for three years at Barcelona.

"Pep is the reference for me, I'm not saying for everyone," says Henry. "We learnt how to play the game when I went to Barcelona under him.

"With Pep you can talk about the game. He will not even go to sleep and will still talk about the game, you will fall asleep and he's still talking. The invention he had, he's well ahead of the game

"I saw it closely. You learn from people; they inspire you. But you also need to put your own little mix in it."

Inevitably, he also name-checked Wenger, who left Monaco a few weeks after Henry's debut as a 17-year-old but then rescued him from a frustrating spell at Juventus and took him to Arsenal.

Henry continues: "Arsene unlocked a lot of stuff in my mind, made me understand what it was to be a professional, what it was to perform.

"I will never forget that. You know the relationship I had with him so I will always carry some of the stuff that he was doing."

The new boss faced a tricky start as he set out to end Monaco's miserable run and in his first game they lost 2-1 to a strong Strasbourg side. An error from stand-in keeper Seydou Sy led to Strasbourg's opening goal and Monaco's fifth straight defeat was compounded by an injury to Radamel Falcao and the sending-off of sub Samuel Grandsir, who lasted just one minute and 51 seconds on the pitch. "It wasn't the dream scenario," lamented Henry afterwards.

Tough fixtures come thick and fast in November and December. There are dates with Club Brugge, Atletico Madrid and Borussia Dortmund in the Champions League, while in Ligue 1 there is a visit from Paris Saint-Germain and a reunion with former Arsenal and France team-mate Patrick Vieira, who is now in charge of local rivals Nice.

And things could get worse before they get better for Henry. The injury list is long, with Falcao joining Rony Lopes, Stevan Jovetic and this summer's record signing Aleksandr Golovin, as well as keepers Diego Benaglio and Danijel Subasic on the sidelines. Defensive solidity has been hard to achieve thanks to an injury to Kevin N'Doram and suspensions clocked up by centre-backs Jemerson and Andrea Raggi.

> "This is where I started. This club will always have a big place in my heart"

The absentees are likely to force him to promote players such as forward Moussa Sylla, who replaced Falcao against Strasbourg. He is just one of the promising youngsters on the books of a club famed for its youth and scouting policy, with Moroccan midfielder Youssef Ait Bennasser, French defender Julien Serrano, and Spanish teenagers Jordi Mboula and Robert Navarro also highly thought of.

Henry is old enough to have played with N'Doram's father, Japhet – the Chad striker who set up his first Champions League goal in 1997 – yet still young enough for memories of his playing days not to have been sullied by managerial disappointment.

With plenty of goodwill in the bank, Henry's coaching honeymoon is expected to run for at least a few more months, though he will do well to match the record of his predecessor Jardim.

John Holmesdale

Lucas Paqueta

Flamengo talent on his way to Milan

Few success stories are entirely without failure and the rise of Lucas Paqueta – reaching idol status at Brazil's biggest club, Flamengo, and earning a €35million move to Milan – is no exception.

The attacking midfielder was on standby for the World Cup in Russia and made his international debut against the USA in September. But in April last year he was barely even on the subs' bench for his club side, having come off a poor South American Under-20 Championship where Brazil failed to qualify for the World Cup at that level.

Handed the mythical number 10 shirt in the tournament in Ecuador, he made little impression and quickly lost his place in the team. Over the course of the nine games he was in and out of the side and did little of note. Needing only to beat an already eliminated Colombia in the final game, he made no impact as Brazil went out with a goalless draw.

However, an injection of confidence can make all the difference in a young career. And in his case, it came from Reinaldo Rueda, the third of six coaches he has played for in less than two years.

Rueda spotted potential in his mix of physical capacity and technical ability, and he worked on finding him a place in the Flamengo starting line up. Now 21, he has improvised at centre-forward in the absence of Peru's Paolo Guerrero, been out wide on both the right and left flank, and used centrally in a midfield three or as part of a two.

> "He should be compared with Kaka for his physical type, his best position and his characteristics"
>
> **Tostao**

His most recent boss at Fla, Dorival Junior, now appears to be getting the best out of him by pushing the youngster higher up the field as an attacking midfielder or support striker.

"He should be compared with Kaka," says 1970 World Cup hero Tostao, "for his physical type, his best position and his characteristics. Leonardo, Milan's executive, must have thought of this."

The similarities help explain Milan's interest, but there are differences. He lacks Kaka's capacity to surge and find extra gears running with the ball, though he is probably better in the air. And, though their ages are similar, Kaka was much further down the line with his career when joining Milan than Lucas Paqueta will be if, as reported, his move goes through in January.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there are times when the rapidity of his rise seems to have gone to his head and he can make silly mistakes when trying to over-elaborate and loses his calm too easily.

But he is undoubtedly talented and full of confidence. It seems that the push for an early move to Europe has come from him and it will be fascinating to see if he can maintain the momentum that took him from flop at the start of 2017 to star by the middle of the following year.

Tim Vickery

Rising star...getting the better of Cruzeiro's Raniel (left) and Marcelo Hermes

Ronaldo

Brazilian becomes majority owner of Liga side Real Valladolid

Home...Estadio Jose Zorrilla

The phenomenon of former players buying football clubs has been a limited affair so far. David Beckham's MLS Miami franchise remains in the pipeline, while Beckham's former Manchester United team-mates Gary Neville, Paul Scholes and Ryan Giggs put a mini-rocket into the England non-league game with their purchase of Salford City.

Meanwhile, in the USA, Didier Drogba (Phoenix Rising), Paolo Maldini (Miami) and Demba Ba (San Diego) are all attempting to make waves in the second-tier NASL.

And now former Brazil striker Ronaldo has joined the party, acquiring a 51 per cent stake in La Liga side Real Valladolid from club president Carlos Suarez for a reported €30million.

Top six...Valladolid (in purple) won 1-0 at Betis

No stranger to football business, Ronaldo previously had a minority stake in NASL club Fort Lauderdale Strikers and played a key role on the organising committee of the 2014 World Cup in his homeland. And there is now speculation that the purchase of the Spanish club, who were promoted last season, could be a stepping stone to long-term political ambitions in Brazil.

> "He's putting us on the map, as a club and as a city"
>
> **Real Valladolid president Carlos Suarez**

It could also prove to be a very shrewd investment with the growing value of La Liga TV rights – irrespective of whether a proposed plan to play Liga games in the United States gets the green light.

"He's putting us on the map, as a club and as a city," said Suarez, who will stay on as club president

Valladolid are something of a yo-yo club, having been promoted or relegated between Spain's top two divisions six times in the past 14 years. But the club are currently in a stable financial position, having brought previous hefty debts under control. Regular sell-out crowds at the 26,500-capacity Estadio Jose Zorrilla have boosted income and Ronaldo is not expected to be investing extra money in the January transfer window.

Indeed, the team is doing fine without any outside assistance, with a 1-0 win at Real Betis in October taking them into the top six, above Real Madrid.

Unlike his former Brazil team-mates Ronaldinho and Rivaldo, Ronaldo did not endorse Jair Bolsonaro, the fascist candidate in the country's presidential election, and is a far sharper operator than many have given him credit for.

Insisting that he will be a hands-on owner, the 42-year-old says: "Do you think I'm going to buy the club then go on holiday the next day? I am really excited and I will give all my experience, all my thrill, all my excitement for this project to be successful.

"This is not just the club's reputation at stake here; the fans' support and the hope of the whole city is at stake.

"We expect to have the whole country talking about us soon, and why not the whole of Europe? We have a dream and that's where we want to be."

John Holmesdale

Ivan Savvidis

Controversial PAOK owner accused of acting as a Russian agent

Prior to March 11 this year, very few people outside of Greece had heard of Ivan Savvidis. At 59, the Russian-Greek oligarch, who got rich in tobacco and is considered a close political ally of Russian president Vladimir Putin, looks more like a kindly uncle than anything else.

But in the closing moments of a Greek Superleague game between PAOK – who he bought in 2012 – and AEK, he briefly became the most famous football club owner in the world.

With both sides vying for top spot, a last-minute goal for PAOK looked to have put them in pole position for a first title since 1985. But then the goal was ruled offside and chaos ensued. Savvidis went on to the pitch to remonstrate with the referee...with a gun holstered on his hip.

The match was abandoned, the pictures and video went viral, and the league was suspended amid much soul searching about the state of the game in Greece, which has been mired by fan violence, intimidation and match fixing for years. FIFA even set up a monitoring committee with the threat of Greece being expelled altogether – a fate dubbed "Grexit" in the local media.

Savvidis was banned from football for three years, AEK were awarded the three points and PAOK were deducted a further three points – all of which proved crucial as AEK won the league for the first time in 24 years.

But the gun incident did more than cost PAOK the title; it also focused attention on the super-rich and the politically connected in Greek football.

Until recently the dominant figure in the local game had been Evangelos Marinakis, a shipping magnate who funded Olympiakos' 19 titles in 21 years and now also owns Nottingham Forest. But the financial crisis in Greece opened the door for others such as Savvidis, whose motivations are more complex.

Born into a poor Pontic Greek family

Armed...going onto the pitch against AEK

Line-up...before PAOK's home game against Chelsea in the Europa League this season

in rural Georgia in 1959 when it was part of the Soviet Union, Savvidis moved to Rostov on Don at 15 and got a job rolling cigarettes at the state-owned tobacco company. By the time the Soviet Union collapsed and the tobacco factory was privatised, he had risen to become its general director and Donskoy Tabak was one of the biggest players in the Russian tobacco market.

President of FC Rostov and then their smaller city rivals SKA Rostov, in 2003 Savvidis entered the Duma, Russia's parliament, as a member of the pro-Putin United Russia party. He quit in 2012 and turned his attention to Greece, his ancestral homeland, and the northern region of Macedonia in particular.

The Greek financial crisis decimated the country's economy and Thessaloniki was hit particularly hard, fuelling already palpable resentment in the north of the country towards Athens. But Thessaloniki is strategically important as a port and is used by NATO. Russia views NATO as a military threat and combating its spread is perhaps its biggest foreign policy goal.

Savvidis bought local Thessaloniki side PAOK just as a huge match-fixing scandal was being exposed. The club and its fans had always seen themselves as being on the receiving end of a vast conspiracy directed from Athens and the new owner was seen as the antidote: a wealthy man not dependent on Greek state patronage.

When violence marred a Greek Cup semi-final game against Olympiakos the following year, Savvidis withdrew PAOK from the second leg, later explaining: "Greek football is undergoing an acute crisis – the healthy parties are fighting against a well-organized, corrupt system."

For PAOK fans, the gun incident against AEK was further proof of a conspiracy and Savvidis' reputation was only enhanced by it.

But then a report from the Organised Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) made the startling claim that Savvidis had been channelling cash into the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM), which borders Greece to the north. The country had recently changed its government and pledged to join NATO and the European Union, but this had been prevented by Greece in the past in a dispute over the name of the country. Greece believes that there is only one Macedonia – the northern region of its country where Thessaloniki is its de-facto capital.

It is a hugely emotive issue, but the new Macedonian prime minister Zoran Zaev and his Greek counterpart Alexis Tsipras agreed on a deal that would see the country renamed as the Republic of North Macedonia in return for Greece dropping its objection to NATO and EU membership. A referendum was planned in FYROM to pass the move, but the agreement sparked violent protests in Thessaloniki, often involving PAOK fans. The Greek government even expelled two Russian diplomats over what they believed was an attempt by Russia to stir up opposition to the agreement.

> "Greek football is undergoing an acute crisis – the healthy parties are fighting against a well-organized, corrupt system"

Meanwhile, OCCRP claim Savvidis sent €300,000 to nationalist groups in the Macedonian capital of Skopje to help protests against the name deal and thwart Macedonia's NATO ambitions.

In the end the opponents of the name-change referendum decided to boycott the vote but Macedonia's parliament agreed the name change anyway, meaning there will no doubt be further protests in Skopje and Thessaloniki in the coming months.

On the pitch, things have improved for PAOK. They won their first seven games of the season, meaning they were top even after starting with a two-point penalty for the gun incident. Despite questions about his motives in buying the club, Savvidis remains wildly popular in the city – and if he delivers the title, few in Thessaloniki will care about why he bought PAOK in the first place.

James Montague

eye witness

James Montague

IRAN

Female fans longing to follow their team

Protests in Russia and Tehran see support for the campaign to allow women to watch football in Iran

They had brought signs and banners but, most importantly, they had brought tickets too. Outside the Saint Petersburg Stadium, shortly before Iran were preparing to play Morocco at the 2018 World Cup finals back in June, a small group of activists were staging a protest under the watchful but non-interventionist eye of the nearby Russian police.

"Support Iranian women to attend stadiums #NoBan4Women," read the biggest and most prominent signs. Iranian fans, both men and women, stopped to take photographs and make victory signs.

"It is their right, they have to be in the stadiums, football is not for men only," said Sara, who had organised for the signs to be there. Sara is an Iranian activist who runs the popular @OpenStadiums Twitter account, which has almost single-handedly brought global attention to one of world football's most pressing issues: the near four-decade long ban on women from attending matches in Iran.

Freedom..Iran fans at the Morocco game

Online activism is dangerous work in Iran. "Sara" is not her real name and she has to carefully communicate by encrypted messenger.

Activists are routinely jailed in Iran's notorious Evin Prison for far less. But, for a few weeks at least, Russia had offered her a much safer space to protest. FIFA had given Sara and her group permission to carry the banner into the stadium – something which would usually be prohibited. FIFA would later argue that the poster was a social rather than a political message.

But this was also a special game for a different reason. It was the first time that Sara had legally attended a match, with her own ticket.

"Every time we went to demonstrate, it never happened," she said of her previous attempts in Iran to buy a ticket outside Tehran's huge Azadi Stadium, shortly before finding her seat ahead of the Morocco game. "Now football is going from two dimensions to three dimensions."

> "It is their right, they have to be in the stadiums, football is not for men only"
>
> **Women's rights activist "Sara"**

At the start of this year, two major football powers still upheld bans on women attending football matches. Saudi Arabia was one, but that ban was lifted at the behest of the country's new, young crown prince Mohammad Bin Salman. The Saudi ban on women driving was also lifted, although scores of feminist activists were later put in jail and some were even sent to death row.

In Iran, the ban stayed firmly in place. Back in March, FIFA president Gianni Infantino visited Tehran, ostensibly to see the derby between Persepolis and Esteghlal, which is one of the biggest games in Asia. The match was held at the Azadi Stadium and the atmosphere was explosive, with 100,000 people packed into the ground nine hours before kick-off. Inside two huge portraits – of the Imam Khomeini, who led the country's 1979 Islamic revolution, and the Ayatollah Khamenei, Iran's current spiritual leader

Global support...fans in Saint Petersburg at the World Cup with Sara's flag

Photography: Getty Images & James Montague

– dominated the stadium, towering over the east stand. One half of the stadium wore the red colours of Persepolis, the other half were in the blue of Esteghlal.

The Iranian press reported that Infantino would meet president Hassan Rouhani to press him on the stadium ban. Infantino's predecessor, Sepp Blatter, made the same journey and asked about the same issue but with no success.

As Infantino settled into his seat at the Azadi to watch the derby, outside the stadium 35 young women and girls, some dressed as men and wearing fake beards, were being arrested for trying to illegally gain entrance to the stadium.

Sara has been campaigning against the ban for more than a decade. When she started out in 2005 she would protest with a few hundred women outside the Azadi before Iran home games. But when the political climate turned harsher after the election of the hardline president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad the protests declined. With the failure in 2009 of the Green Revolution – an uprising against what many people thought was the theft of that year's presidential election – the protests stopped altogether. So Sara turned to social media to get her voice out. "I was completely alone," she says.

Protest...an Iranian activist in Russia

"Tweeting these organisations, keeping my identity secret. You don't want to be discovered. Sometimes I get really afraid."

But in recent years there had been greater hope of change. Ahmadinejad has been replaced by Rouhani, who is seen as a relative moderate and had made positive noises to Blatter about lifting the ban, which wasn't, it turned out, absolute.

One home international against Bahrain in 2005 saw some Iranian female relatives of the players and officials enter the stadium. And foreign female fans have long been allowed in to the Azadi, just not any Iranians, much to the chagrin on Sara and her fellow activists. One activist told me that hundreds of Syrian women were allowed into Iran's final 2018 World Cup qualifier and that it was even possible for Iranian women to buy tickets. But still they weren't allowed in. "We were there, outside

the stadium and the side opened and all of a sudden you could buy tickets. They don't sell us tickets," explained Jazmin (not her real name). "The guards were really sorry we couldn't go in. But the Syrian women could go in! The ban is just for Iranian women! Australian, Irish women."

So the arrival of Infantino provided an opportunity. Sara and her fellow activists believed that there was no way anyone would be arrested with the FIFA president there, so they began to formulate a plan to attend the game.

As there was no official law against women entering stadiums – the ban had been decreed unofficially shortly after Iran's Islamic revolution and has simply continued ever since – Sara and her friends decided to turn up at the stadium without any disguises. But at the stadium the group was denied entry and told they would be arrested if they didn't leave. They were arrested anyway.

Sara got there late and arrived to find out that 35 people had been arrested and taken to the Vozara Detention Center, a jail often used to hold women for morality crimes. They included her friends as well as random groups of other women who had been caught trying to sneak in dressed as men.

Meeting...Iran's minister of sport and youth Masoud Soltanifar (right) with Gianni Infantino

All 35 women and girls were put in the same room but they were allowed to keep their phones. A selfie Taken by one of the women went viral on Telegram, which is by far the most popular social-media platform in Iran. They all exchanged numbers and tips about what to do next time and, more importantly, how to more accurately walk and generally act like a man to avoid detection.

Meanwhile, Sara had sprung into action and contacted two female Iranian MPs to help pressure for their release.

"The Islamic Republic is not a whole package of bad people," Sara explains when we met shortly after the Tehran derby. "If you are living in this country you have to find some ways into the system."

The system is so complex – split between political, religious and military power bases that often conflict and overlap – that change is slow.

"In Saudi," Sara says of the recent lifting of the ban there, "one person decides. Here, we have so many people. So many ayatollahs. There is a president and cabinet. And the supreme leader." She believes the best scenario is to let women in step by step. "But they have to start it!"

And it isn't just activists speaking out these days. Prominent players have also raised the issue publicly, with the most famous example being the captain of the national team, Masoud Shojaei.

After Iran secured qualification for Russia 2018, the entire team was taken for a reception with president Rouhani. Traditionally, players would ask for better bonuses or more funding for the national team. But on this occasion Shojaei raised the issue of the stadium ban with the president directly.

> "They [Iranian women] are the ones who won tonight. Hopefully the first of many"
> **Sergio Ramos, after Spain beat Iran at this summer's World Cup**

"I can ask for something more important," he said when we met before the World Cup. "To do something for my people as the captain of the national team.

"I said to the president the situation. And he was kind. He said: 'We have a plan to do this."

But the ban wasn't lifted, and instead Shojaei found himself in the international wilderness. Shortly after that meeting he returned to Greece where he was playing for Athens side Panionios. They were in the Europa League and had been drawn against Maccabi Tel Aviv. There is a strict but unofficial ban on Iranian sports men and women competing against Israelis, and conservative voices in Iran demanded Shojaei and his Iranian team-mate Ehsan Hajsafi refuse to play in the tie. But the club needed them and they both made an appearance in the second game in Greece.

Shojaei was left out of the national

Men only... derby day in Tehran as Persepolis take on Esteghlal

squad for months, until coach Carlos Queiroz slowly re-introduced him shortly before the finals. "My job was to read the situation, cool it down. Let the dust go down," Queiroz later said when asked about the decision to bring back Shojaei. "I was absolutely in control of my decisions and I always call with all freedom and authority the players that I want."

When the World Cup arrived, little was expected of Iran, who were drawn in a group with a very talented Morocco team, as well as Spain and Portugal. But Sara's first game ended in jubilation. An injury-time own goal gave Iran a 1-0 victory against the north African side, their first World Cup win since they beat USA at France 98. "I don't know how to celebrate, I was shocked," she said after the game. "It was something I had never experienced before. I need to go to more games."

The next game gave the campaign even more visibility. For the first time in decades it was decided at the last minute that women would be allowed in to the Azadi Stadium to watch Iran play Spain on the big screen. Spain won 1-0 but afterwards defender Sergio Ramos tweeted: "They [Iranian women] are the ones who won tonight. Hopefully the first of many." His post has been liked nearly 75,000 times.

> While in Tehran, FIFA president Gianni Infantino claimed he had brought up the issue [of women at football] in private, although he didn't say with whom

Iran's hopes of reaching the knockout stage ended with a 1-1 draw against Portugal, during which Cristiano Ronaldo escaped a red card for throwing an elbow. "Elbow is a red card in the rules, the rules doesn't say if it's Messi or Ronaldo," said Queiroz afterwards. He went home dejected, but the good news is that the coach has agreed to stay on at least until January's 2019 Asian Cup.

Skipper...Masoud Shojaei (in white) leads Iran out against Morocco

Sara and other activists in Iran continue to take huge risks to get the ban lifted.

Following his visit back in March, Infantino seemed to suggest that it was diplomacy done quietly behind closed doors that would achieve the greatest success. But that doesn't seem to be working. The FIFA president made no comment on the arrests while in Iran. Later he would claim that he had brought up the issue in private, although he didn't say with whom.

The fact that FIFA allowed Sara's banner into the Iran versus Morocco game shows there are some within FIFA sympathetic to the cause of lifting Iran's stadiums ban. But Sara believes that Infantino's visit should have ended it once and for all. It was, she says, a wasted opportunity and there has been silence from Infantino on the issue ever since. "His words go into thin air," Sara says. "Nothing happens."

As ever in Iran, two competing narratives appear to be fighting it out for supremacy. On the one hand Iran now seems to be doubling down on the ban. At the start of the domestic season the country's Fars news agency reported that 500 CCTV cameras would be installed to try pick out troublemakers and in particular female fans disguised as men.

"The presence of girls in the stadium in male disguise is an insult to women," said Abdolhamid Ahmadi, deputy sports minister, quoted by opposition media. "It tarnishes the images of sports... these ladies even create problems for the spectators."

The first Tehran derby of the 2018-19 season was again played in front of an all male crowd. Again, women were arrested for trying to enter the stadium dressed as men. But then it was announced at the last minute that the female relatives of Iranian players and officials would be allowed in to the Azadi to watch a friendly game in October, against Bolivia. Hundreds of women saw Iran win 2-1 even though hundreds more were left locked outside. They had arrived in the hope that they too may be allowed in, even if they weren't related to a player or FA official. At the time it seemed like a significant move and there were hopes that the same would happen for the crunch second leg Asian Champions League semi-final between Persepolis and Qatar's Al Saad. Instead, it was announced that no women, whether related to any players or otherwise, would be allowed in at all. Iran's female football activists might have taken one step forward in recent months, but they soon took two steps back.

At home...women prepare to watch the Spain game on a big screen in the Azadi

Sound...Iran fans make themselves heard

"This, going into the stadium, comes out of my heart. I am doing this not just because it is a right we do not have but because I would love to go to the stadiums," said Jazmin, who has never seen Persepolis play in the flesh.

"For this one I am willing to sacrifice and pay the price for it."

Back

on track?

The successful bid for Euro 2024 has given German football the chance to rebuild its reputation. Keir Radnedge reports

Start...Munich's Allianz Arena is expected to host the opening game of Euro 2024

German football sees the opportunity for redemption in the European Championship – both on the pitch and off it, with the national team hoping to reclaim in 2020 the lustre it squandered at this year's World Cup and the DFB putting financial scandal behind it by staging Euro 2024.

In September, UEFA's executive committee voted 12 to 4 – with one abstention and one illness absentee – in favour of Germany for the latter finals.

The European federation is relieved to return the 24-team tournament to a single host after the derided, all-over-the-place staging in 2020. The last time the finals were held on German territory was by the former Federal Republic in 1988, two years before reunification.

Turkey, meanwhile, must go on waiting to stage a major tournament, although Istanbul did host the Champions League Final in 2005 and will do so again in 2020. However, this was the country's fourth failure in its pursuit of hosting the Euro finals.

> "We believe Germany is the right partner at the right time for UEFA and for all of football in Europe"
> **DFB president Reinhard Grindel**

The Turks had lost to France by just one vote in the duel for 2016 and their media assailed UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin over 2024 for reneging on some unspecified suggestion that he had promised to back Turkey in exchange for support in his 2016 presidential bid.

The idea appears highly unlikely and Ceferin has denied it. But whatever the truth, he will not be counting on Turkish support when he seeks re-election next spring – though that should have little

effect on him remaining in his post.

Regardless of any voting promises, UEFA's own report on the rival 2024 bids identified a string of German advantages.

Firstly, the DFB had proposed 10 stadia, all of which already exist, while Turkey had proffered seven existing arenas, plus two more to be rebuilt and one to be renovated. In addition, the total capacity for the 51 matches in Germany will be 2,780,000 – as opposed to 2,290,000 in Turkey.

Secondly, there is a notable difference concerning internal transport. Germany offers a solid road, rail and air network. As for Turkey, UEFA noted that "travel relies on air transport...and the scale of works to be undertaken in the given time-frame constitutes a risk, especially in combination with the dependence on a few airports for international and domestic travel".

Thirdly, human rights presented the widest chasm between the rivals. Against an unstated but evident Turkish context of increasing repression on journalistic and other freedoms, UEFA's report was unequivocal in stating bluntly that "the lack of an action plan in the area of human rights is a matter for concern".

Finally, a restriction in Turkey on alcohol advertising "might be a potential conflict if a sponsorship agreement is signed with a beer company".

Suddenly, the black summer clouds were clearing for German football and the DFB had a victory to celebrate.

Philipp Lahm will head the organising committee and he is promising "a huge festival with the whole of Europe to demonstrate how hospitable and open we are".

Hopefully it will be as happy as the World Cup of 2006 – but without any of the murky consequences.

The opening match is expected to be in Munich with the Final four weeks later in Berlin. Other games will be staged in Cologne, Dortmund, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt, Gelsenkirchen, Hamburg, Leipzig and Stuttgart. The DFB has already submitted to UEFA a list of 76 team hotels, near 66 training centres, plus a further 38 possible hotels.

All the stadia will be updated to state-of-the-art technology, including LED floodlights and upgrades to cellular network and broadcasting facilities. Leipzig's Red Bull Arena, the only suitable venue in the former East Germany, will see redevelopment start shortly to increase its capacity from 43,000 to 52,000 at a cost of €35million.

The 2024 finals could be the first to generate more than €1billion in revenue, based on projections following the €847m from Euro 2016. By comparison the finals in West Germany in 1988 added up to "only" €14.7m. The prospect, as Lahm appreciates, is an important one in helping heal the wounds suffered by the German game since the ultimate high of winning the World Cup in the Maracana in 2014.

Joachim Low's Germany were beaten

Controversy... Recep Tayyip Erdogan (right) with Ilkay Gundogan (left) and Mesut Ozil

The 2024 finals could be the first to generate more than €1billion in revenue ...by comparison the finals in West Germany in 1988 added up to €14.7m

Success...DFB delegates with the Euro trophy

2-0 in the subsequent European semi-finals by hosts France but that was quickly forgotten as Thomas Muller and co rampaged through Northern Ireland, Czech Republic, Norway, Azerbaijan and San Marino in qualifying for their World Cup defence in Russia.

Added to this, what was essentially a third-string squad won the 2017 Confederations Cup in Russia – though with hindsight, straws in the wind were evident. The 1-0 Confed Cup Final victory in Saint Petersburg was achieved against a Chilean side who, though reigning South American title holders, were on their way to World Cup qualifying failure.

Low even hinted in his World Cup reflections that Confederations success may have layered the arrogance of world champion status with complacency.

Flying high... Germany beat Turkey in the Euro vote

Final...Berlin's Olympiastadion

The Deutscher Fussball-Bund had once been viewed as a model of exemplary administrative competence. But that had been shaken firstly by the 2006 World Cup farrago and then by further evidence of disfunction in the second half of last year.

In Holland, at the 2017 UEFA Women's Championship, the over-hasty appointment of an ill-prepared Steffi Jones to coach the all-conquering European champions in succession to Silvia Neid came badly unstuck. Then, back in the men's camp, Low and general manager Oliver Bierhoff squabbled over the choice of CSKA Moscow's Vatutinki complex – some 20 miles southwest of the capital – as the holders' World Cup training camp.

Worse was to follow in mid-May when midfielders Mesut Ozil and Ilkay Gundogan sparked political controversy through their obsequious meeting in London with Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the increasingly autocratic and authoritarian president of Turkey.

He had been approaching national elections in Turkey and had been rallying support among the expatriate community, particularly in Germany. The players' presentation of a shirt to Erdogan and Ozil's reference to "my president" went down badly in the context of the rise of the extreme right-wing AfD party.

The meeting came back to bite the DFB painfully in a manner that was unlikely had Germany put up a decent showing at the World Cup.

Ten days before the finals Low produced a rare selection surprise by dropping Leroy Sane from his squad. The 22-year-old had been voted Young Player of the Year in England for his pacy contribution to Manchester City's Premier League title success. But, as Toni Kroos stated later in hinting at a wider disfunction within the squad, the youngster had "attitude" issues.

Low believed omitting Sane was essential for dressing-room harmony, but the option of Sane's presence, at least on the substitutes' bench, was badly missed.

At the finals, a 1-0 defeat by Mexico

and a 2-1 win over Sweden – only achieved thanks to Kroos' late strike – were compounded by a disastrous 2-0 loss to South Korea. German chaos was illustrated perfectly by the sight of keeper Manuel Neuer – his own inclusion a gamble after nine months out injured – stranded upfield as Son Heung-min ran free for the second goal.

It was the first time Germany had been eliminated in the opening round of a World Cup since 1938. Germany now knew a little of how Brazil felt after their 7-1 semi-final loss in Belo Horizonte four years earlier.

Low and his team were as devastated as the fans back home and the media flew into the attack. For *Bild*, the German World Cup effort had been a "nightmare", while *Die Welt* felt that an "unimaginative" team had suffered "the highest degree of humiliation" and *Der Spiegel* said it was an "historic disgrace."

Having been handed the security of a contract extension earlier in the year, Low flew home with his team to express his regrets then hastily vanished on holiday.

There has been little respite in the Nations League. Sane was recalled but defeats to Holland and France left Low's side in danger of being relegated to the second tier of UEFA's new competition.

The national side's continuing problems have left DFB president Reinhard Grindel exposed. Now 57, Grindel had been a member of the Bundestag from 2000 until 2016, where he was a leading member of chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union party. He then abandoned his political career to take over at a DFB in desperate need of a new leadership untainted by the 2006 World Cup scandal.

Happy memories of the sunshine-strewn 2006 finals had been marred by revelations of a mysterious loan to the bid committee from the late Robert Louis-Dreyfus, then owner of long-time DFB partner Adidas. Bid and then organising chair Franz Beckenbauer, DFB treasurer and then president Theo Zwanziger and long-serving general secretary Horst R Schmidt had all been aware of the money which was eventually channelled back via FIFA to Asian confederation supremo Mohamed Bin Hammam.

A botched attempt at a cover-up not only cost the trio their reputations but landed the DFB in trouble with the tax authorities and prompted the resignation of president Wolfgang Niersbach.

Parachuted into power, Grindel progressed rapidly into the executive committees of UEFA and FIFA – where he soon clashed swords with president Gianni Infantino.

FIFA insiders merely tutted that this was inevitable with a newcomer unversed in the complex world of football politics. But Grindel's initial naivety soon raised concerns back home.

Why had he handed Low a new contract so soon? Why had he permitted the World Cup HQ issue to fester? What was his overall responsibility in the World Cup fiasco? How long before he went back to politics?

As if this were not enough, Ozil poured fuel on the flames a week after the end of the World Cup, as the Arsenal playmaker announced his decision to quit the national team in a long angry statement – in English – in which he laid into Grindel for making him a "scapegoat for his incompetence and inability to do his job properly".

Ozil, who had scored 23 goals in 92 internationals, met Grindel immediately after the Erdogan incident and tried to explain his feelings as a child of Turkish immigrants. Grindel, said Ozil, had treated him and his views in a "patronising" manner and, in essence, had not listened or understood.

The picture, Ozil said, "had nothing to do with politics or elections – it was a question of respect for the highest office in my family's country".

Ozil went on: "In the eyes of Grindel and his supporters I am German when we win but I am an immigrant when we lose. This despite paying taxes in Germany, donating facilities to German schools and winning the World Cup with Germany in 2014.

"I am still not accepted into society. I am treated as being different. My friends Lukas Podolski and Miroslav Klose are never referred to as German-Polish, so why am I German-Turkish?"

Grindel, while admitting he could have handled the Ozil affair better, developed a broad back during his political career and put that personal resilience to good use in pushing forward with Germany's 2024 bid. He had no other choice – so he decided to turn it to an advantage, and Philipp Lahm – the country's 2014 World Cup-winning captain – was a popular and impressive choice as main bid ambassador; a sort of anti-Ozil.

The DFB probably worked harder in promoting the 2024 bid precisely because of the World Cup failure. It had something to prove in terms of its own competence and this was a chance to demonstrate a clean pair of hands by comparison with the old regime.

Grindel took the "new broom" image seriously, but for him the choice of host stadia came at a personal cost.

Germany's bid team had called on Transparency International to help define a ranking of the 10 best stadia from a country with more than enough venues for two bids. Contender cities had to submit formal tenders and Hanover,

Boss...DFB president Reinhard Grindel

> The Turkish media assailed UEFA president Aleksander Ceferin over 2024 for reneging on some unspecified suggestion that he had promised to back Turkey in exchange for support in his 2016 presidential bid

Return...Leroy Sane back in action for the national side, against France in September

Out...Leroy Sane's image is removed from the DFB's football museum before the World Cup in Russia

the capital of Lower Saxony and where Grindel had been vice-president of the regional FA, was placed only 12th and missed the cut, along with Nuremberg, Monchengladbach and Bremen.

Grindel says: "Personally I was sorry for Hanover and some of my old friends asked me: 'How can this be when you are president of the DFB?' But after everything which had happened we were absolutely determined to run a fair and open and transparent tender process.

"This was the result. I think it proved exactly our point about a commitment to an honest process.

"We have had to learn from the past and focus only on the facts. In my eyes it's good for both UEFA and for the DFB to show the world that we can get such a tournament with only our arguments and not by other things.

"The only crucial question is: what is the best decision for football in Europe and for UEFA?

"UEFA needs, for all its activities and especially for the smaller and mid-sized federations, a solid financial foundation, so the Euro is a very important tournament.

"We can guarantee sustainable revenues, the maximum possible revenues from hospitality and the support of German business with a lot of global brands.

"We can sell 2.8million tickets so a lot of fans can attend the matches and, of course, we will also have very good fan zones. We can guarantee political and economic stability. So we believe Germany is the right partner at the right time for UEFA and for all of football in Europe."

And, of course, for German football, the DFB and *Die Mannschaft*. WS

Outcry...German papers were scathing of the national team after the World Cup

Lahm leads the way

Philipp Lahm captained Germany to victory at the 2014 World Cup and will be investing similar tireless energies in heading Germany's hosting of Euro 2024.

Lahm scored five goals in 113 appearances for Germany between 2004 and 2014 . He claimed 21 national and international trophies with Bayern Munich and only last year was voted Footballer of the Year.

A proven winner and a man on a mission, Lahm says: "We are a country which is well prepared to put on special events. We are a football nation. We have all the infrastructure and we are an extremely hospitable

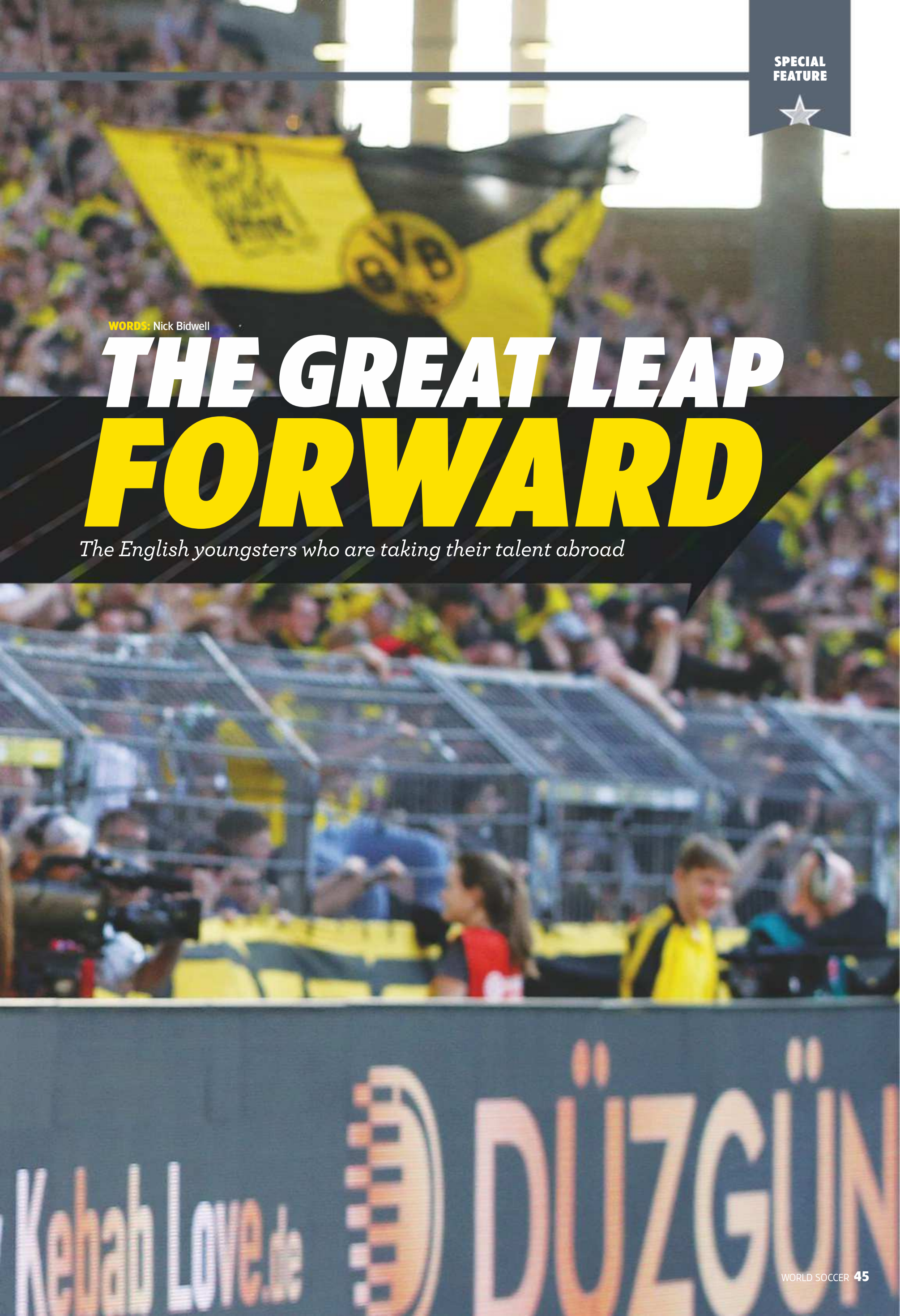
nation – as we showed in 2006."

The word "preparation" is a recurring theme with Lahm, not only as regards the bids but in terms of his own career and his decision to retire, having seen enough veteran players slide aimlessly and sadly down the leagues and in far-distant countries.

"Everything for me is about preparation; the same as when I was a player," says the 34-year-old. "So I prepared myself for the end of my football career and for my life afterwards.

"Then along came this wonderful opportunity with Euro 2024. Everyone here has such great memories of how the country came together in 2006. Football unites all different peoples. I experienced this as a player in 2006 and now we all want another summer here in Germany like that one."

On the up...Jadon Sancho at Borussia Dortmund



WORDS: Nick Bidwell

THE GREAT LEAP FORWARD

The English youngsters who are taking their talent abroad

At a time when the UK is decoupling from the EU, an ever-growing band of young English footballers are opting to kick-start their careers at clubs in major European leagues.

In a not-too distant past, the vast majority of emerging Premier League prospects would have instantly rejected the offer of a cross-border adventure; either unwilling to quit their "best league in the world" comfort zone and its pecuniary advantages or rendered twitchy by thoughts of learning a new language and potential culture shock.

But attitudes change and over the last couple of years the concept of flying the domestic nest has suddenly gained traction among the rising generation of Anglos – so much so that some 20 English youngsters are presently plying their trade in the upper echelons of European football. Talk about a brave new pioneering world. The old rules of insularity and fear of the unknown are no longer applicable.

"Above all, I wanted a new experience," says Ademola Lookman, who enjoyed a successful loan spell in the Bundesliga with RB Leipzig last season and was bitterly disappointed when his Everton employers and the *Leipziger* could not agree on a permanent deal this summer.

"RB Leipzig had been following me since I was 17-18 at Charlton and I was really excited to move to another country," adds the 21-year-old. "There's a different type of input, so many new things to learn. I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

"I'm now much more of a striker than I used to be. I learnt to play in tight spots, find better positions in relation to opponents, to dribble, to make space for others and to shoot for goal quicker."

A hot-bed of populist passion, the Bundesliga has turned out to be a favoured destination of the fledgling diaspora. After turning down a £30,000-a-week contract with Manchester City last year, winger Jadon Sancho is now performing to such a high standard for Borussia Dortmund that he won his first full cap for England in October. Another ex-Manchester City

Development... Ademola Lookman played for RB Leipzig last term

On target... Reiss Nelson (in blue) scores for Hoffenheim against Eintracht Frankfurt

academy pupil, attacking midfielder Denzeil Boadu also plays for Dortmund, exciting Arsenal wide-man Reiss Nelson is on a single-season loan at Hoffenheim and Borussia Monchengladbach swooped for promising 19-year-old Tottenham Hotspur winger Keanan Bennetts in May.

But Germany hasn't been the only EU member to roll out the red carpet for England's NextGen. Under-21 midfielder Ronaldo Vieira recently swapped Championship side Leeds United for Serie A Sampdoria, while Tottenham academy products Noni Madueke and Reo Griffiths left north London in the close season for PSV and Lyon respectively. Around the same time, Chelsea centre-back Jonathan Panzo decided that his best interests would be better served at Monaco, and 20-year-old ex-Arsenal youth-team winger Chris Willock is currently in his second campaign with Benfica B.

Portuguese job... Chris Willock

How times have changed. In the early 1970s an English footballer under contract in western Europe was more or less a novelty act. Ask Nigel Page-Jones, an elegant left-footed sweeper from Herefordshire who played with distinction for French side Brest for many years before coaching at top amateur club Saint-Pol-de Leon. An information systems manager for Brittany Ferries these days, he was the lone ranger.

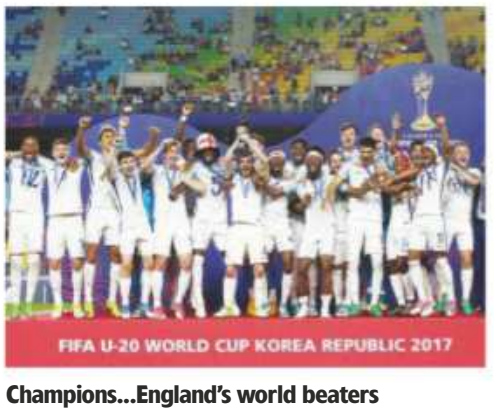
Stripped down to basics, this 21st-century exodus is essentially a flight for the right to play. In a Premier League that is increasingly populated by overseas stars – more than two-thirds of the top tier's professionals are foreign nationals – homegrown youngsters find themselves squeezed out.

Managers, under relentless pressure to deliver immediate results, inevitably tend to prioritise the established off-the-shelf pro to the gifted but raw youngster. Quick fixes are the name of the game.

> "We have some exciting young players which we will lose if they are not given the chance"
> **England manager Gareth Southgate**

And English kids have even less chance of playing time at the top end of the Premier League. Only a quarter of the Manchester City, Manchester United and Chelsea squads are made up of locally sourced talent. Tottenham and Liverpool do better, with 31 and 34 per cent, while Arsenal are the worst of the big six with just a 15 per cent take-up.

Is it any wonder that England boss Gareth Southgate so often bemoans the ever-shrinking reservoir of national team candidates?



Champions...England's world beaters

Going Dutch... Daniel Crowley

MAKING THEIR MARK IN EUROPE

Jadon **SANCHO** *(Borussia Dortmund)*
Denzeil **BOADU** *(Borussia Dortmund)*
Reiss **NELSON** *(Hoffenheim)*
Keanan **BENNETTS** *(Borussia Monchengladbach)*
Mandela **EGBO** *(Borussia Monchengladbach)*
Chima **OKOROJI** *(Freiburg)*
Patrick **ROBERTS** *(Girona)*
Marcus **McGUANE** *(Barcelona)*
Ronaldo **VIEIRA** *(Sampdoria)*
Jonathan **PANZO** *(Monaco)*
Reo **GRIFFITHS** *(Lyon)*
Sheyi **OJO** *(Reims)*
Noni **MADUEKE** *(PSV)*
Daniel **CROWLEY** *(Willem II)*
Jake **CLARKE-SALTER** *(Vitesse)*
Max **CLARK** *(Vitesse)*
Marcus **EDWARDS** *(Excelsior)*
Easah **SULIMAN** *(Emmen)*
Chris **WILLOCK** *(Benfica)*
Chuba **AKPOM** *(PAOK)*

"Statistically, last year we were picking from a pool in the Premier League of 33 per cent English players," Southgate revealed at an FA press conference this season. "This year, we are down to 30 and as far as the top-six clubs are concerned we are on a downward curve.

"There are [good] young players there. We really have to think seriously about how we increase those opportunities.

"None of our under-20 team which won the World Cup has managed to establish themselves in a first-team. If they have proven themselves as good as any young players around the world then that opportunity has to be there.

"For any player, playing football is important but even more for youngsters. You want them to have the experience of big matches.

"I think it's worth us having this debate, getting people around the table to discuss that missing piece. We have some exciting young players which we will lose if they are not given the chance."

Southgate is quite correct in using the term "missing piece". It's all very well England boasting a cutting edge youth-development programme, a fine Premier League academy system, a coherent plan of action for all young representative age groups and a swag bag of silverware in 2017: world under-20 and under-17 titles, and the European under-19 crown. But what good does it

ultimately serve if the fruits of those labours, the teenage players, are not allowed to showcase their ability in the domestic top flight? Sitting on a first-team bench or turning out for their club's under-23 side is of no use.

Left in a kind of parochial no-man's land, English tyros are jumping at the chance to plot a continental escape route. Sancho, for example, did not move to Dortmund on a tetchy, egotistical whim. He pledged his future to a club with a solid reputation for promoting youngsters to the first team.

For German, French and Dutch clubs, shopping for talent in England represents good business. Unable to pay megabucks for footballing A-listers, recruitment chiefs in those countries now see considerable value in raiding the Premier League wannabe market. All they have to do is offer regular match action and career advancement to land exceptional talent at a discount – Sancho cost Dortmund just €7.8million, Gladbach paid €2.25m for Bennetts – with every chance of making a sell-on killing.

"We have noticed that talented English youngsters are more ready these days to make a move to the Netherlands," said PSV director of football John De Jong at the unveiling of Madueke. "With us, they feel they can make a first-team breakthrough at an early age, whereas in England their chances are more limited."

Of course, not every young migrant is going to blossom like a Sancho or Mason Mount, the 19-year-old Chelsea midfielder who after polishing his repertoire at Dutch club Vitesse last season is now starring on loan for Derby County and has claimed a place in the England squad. Wolfsburg recently sacked 20-year-old ex-Arsenal and England striker Kaylen Hinds for going AWOL, while former Tranmere Rovers winger Dale Jennings sank without trace during a stint a few years ago with Bayern Munich reserves, where injury and a lack of progress in the German language lead to a loss of confidence.

> "I wouldn't have missed it for the world. I'm now much more of a striker than I used to be"
>
> **Ademola Lookman on his time at RB Leipzig**

Learning...Mason Mount at Vitesse

Bargain...Keanan Bennetts (right) with Gladbach's director of sport, Max Eberl

When it comes to footballing migrants, there are no guarantees. A player either responds to a different set of parameters or loses his bearings. For every hit, there's a miss. The likes of Kevin Keegan (Hamburg), Gary Lineker (Barcelona), Chris Waddle (Marseille) and Steve McManaman (Real Madrid) were all able to embrace their new world. A challenge, unfortunately, which proved impossible for Ian Rush (Juventus), Mark Hughes (Barcelona and Bayern), Luther Blissett (Milan) and Des Walker (Sampdoria). WS

Jadon SANCHO

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

Champions League... in action v Monaco

Mainly deployed as a second-half sub this season by Dortmund boss Lucien Favre, the 18-year-old winger helped create six goals in his first seven Bundesliga games this season.

A silver medalist and player of the tournament at the 2017 Under-17 Euros, the Londoner with Trinidadian roots is not lacking in self-confidence. The pressures and expectations which come with the territory at Dortmund have left him totally unmoved and he has a precise idea of what the next stage of his career should entail.

"Naturally, I don't only want to be an impact sub," he says. "I want, at some point, to begin matches here."

Good enough to start in the Champions League against Club Brugge and Monaco, he has built up a good understanding with German international Marco Reus. The pair move and combine in perfect harmony and their chemistry is there for all to see.

"It's crazy how well Jadon has done," says Reus. "When he comes on, opponents know they have a weapon to deal with. We're delighted to have a champion like him in reserve."

When the news broke last summer that Sancho was leaving Manchester City's youth system for Germany, many were quick to lambast the youngster for disloyalty and impatience.

The story goes that he and City had shaken hands on a new contract, only for the teen to renege on the deal and attempt to force through a move by skipping training for several weeks. However, he does seem to have made the right choice – as a first England cap, awarded against Croatia, proves.

"I believe I can be a role model for young people," he explains. "Age is only a number. In England, players don't normally leave the country before the age of 22.

"If you are prepared to make sacrifices, anything can happen."

Jonathan PANZO

MONACO

For someone who only reluctantly took up football as a schoolboy, the powerful yet poised centre-back has had a remarkably successful time in the game thus far.

Good enough to be inducted into the Chelsea youth system at the age of nine, he broke into the FA set-up with the under-14s, featured in the England under-17 side that won the world title last year and recently sealed a move to the millionaires' paradise of Monaco. Not bad for an 18-year-old kid from a south London housing estate.

Rumoured to be on the radar of Juventus, Valencia, Eintracht Frankfurt and Borussia Monchengladbach, he would have reflected long and hard on the pros and cons of leaving Chelsea. After almost a decade with the club the emotional bonds were strong. But in the end he had two compelling reasons to go: a need to broaden his horizons and a desire not to be stuck on Chelsea's ever-spinning temporary-transfer carousel.

Under the ownership of Roman Abramovich, Chelsea have become infamous for annually loaning out a small army of fringe players and academy graduates, "parking" 40 such individuals this term. In the wake of two or three different external assignments, it's relatively easy for a Stamford Bridge youngster to be forgotten and he didn't want that to be his fate.

The Monaco raid was something of an "inside job" as the club's director of sport Michael Emenalo spent a decade at Chelsea as chief scout and technical director and was therefore in an ideal position to target the young stopper.

Monaco fully understand that he is a work in progress. They realise he has no first-team experience and still has much to learn. But they know upmarket potential when they see it and are banking on him being ready for the first team in a year or two.

International...on duty for England under-19s

Ronaldo VIEIRA

SAMPDORIA

For many, the dynamic England under-21 midfielder, who moved from Leeds United to Serie A, was an obvious candidate to hop on board the expat express.

On Leeds' books since 2015, the 20-year-old has already seen his fair share of the world, having been born in the west African state of Guinea Bissau, brought up in Portugal and then moving with his family to the north of England in his early teens.

An Elland Road first-teamer in over 60 games, he is athletic and powerful, plays with drive and energy, is a ball-winning machine and likes to keep it neat and tidy in possession.

Contributing twice to English triumphs at the Toulon festival, in 2017 and 2018, he showcased his shooting power with a stunning long-range strike against Qatar at this summer's tournament.

While he still has a few rough edges to smooth out technically and tactically, he is a willing scholar and should benefit enormously from a crash-course in Italian-style strategy and discipline.

"Sampdoria is the next phase in my life," he says. "Serie A is my latest challenge. The president here has put his faith in me. So has the coach. I'm here to learn and help the team."

The fifth English player to line up for Samp – following in the footsteps of Trevor Francis, David Platt, Des Walker and Lee Sharpe – both he and his twin brother Romario were named after Brazilian football legends, with his defensive midfielder sibling under contract with Leeds until this summer.

A former pupil at the Benfica academy, Ronaldo's current footballing good fortune stands in marked contrast to his initial struggles to make a name for himself in the English game, having been rejected as a youngster by Manchester City, Hull City and Barnsley.

Powerful...a driving force in midfield

6 of the best

Early-season hat-trick heroes

Nick Bidwell selects some of this term's top trebles

1 Thorgan HAZARD

BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH

The younger brother of Chelsea playmaker Eden Hazard began the new campaign with three goals in the first round of the German Cup against lower-league BSC Hastedt and has gone on to catch the eye with his left-flank razzle dazzle.

Few German-based players have made as much progress over the past 12 months as the 25-year-old, who has ironed out the wrinkles in his defensive game, gets into the opposition box far more often and is finishing with greater accuracy. He attributes his improved strike rate to extra shooting practice after training and is not the sort of player who flits in and out of a game.

Previously with Lens, Chelsea and Zulte-Waregem, the Belgian is now is in his fifth season with Gladbach and last term was among the top performers in the Bundesliga for shots at goal and sprints.

2 Junior MORAES

SHAKHTAR DONETSK

The Brazilian scored 10 goals in his first 11 league games for Shakhtar – including three in a derby victory over Olimpik Donetsk – following his controversial Bosman free transfer in the summer from Ukraine arch-rivals Dynamo Kiev.

Many of his new supporters have had to reassess their feelings about the 31-year-old striker who back in 2016, while leading the line for Dynamo, was sent off for elbowing and punching a couple of Shakhtar defenders.

Since starting out with Santos in his homeland, his globetrotting lifestyle has earned him a living in Bulgaria, Romania, China and Ukraine. While he has not represented his native land at any level, he has had a number of opportunities to fly a European flag of convenience.

Federation officials in Bulgaria and Romania have previously discussed the subject of naturalisation with him and Ukraine coach Andriy Shevchenko is also thinking along similar lines.

3 Fran SOL
WILLEM II

A former team-mate of Dani Carvajal, Nacho, Lucas Vazquez and Alvaro Morata in Real Madrid's youth sides, the 26-year-old Spanish centre-forward made just two appearances in La Liga, both as a substitute, for Villarreal in his homeland before heading to Holland.

After playing a key role in two successful relegation battles with Willem he is scoring freely again in the Eredivisie this term, notably bagging a hat-trick against Heracles and firing in a late equaliser in a 1-1 home draw with Feyenoord.

Worryingly for his current employers, Feyenoord appear interested and could make a move for him in the January transfer window. Mexican club Cruz Azul also have him on their radar, while the player himself has often talked of returning to play in Spain.

4 Nicolas STEFANELLI
AIK

The first player from Argentinian club Defensa y Justica to move to Europe, the 23-year-old made his mark in Sweden in July with a treble in the 5-1 Allsvenskan thrashing of Brommapojkarna.

Diminutive of stature, he more than compensates with his tidy technique, quick-wittedness and clever runs off the ball.

He says, however, that he finds Swedish football a little too structured, with defensive shape taking priority over creativity and admits to not being particularly fluent in the language, preferring to communicate with his team-mates in English.

"I speak English pretty well," he explains. "When I was young my mother made me go regularly to an institute to study it."

5 Andre SILVA
SEVILLA

In a disappointing inaugural campaign with Milan last season, the ex-Porto striker managed just two goals in seven Serie A starts. However, a loan move to Spain this term saw an immediate upturn in the Portuguese's fortunes and he found the net three times on his debut in La Liga as Sevilla won 4-1 at Rayo Vallecano.

Two goals in a 3-0 victory against Real Madrid and Nations League goals for his country against Italy and Poland have only increased the chances of the Spanish side exercising an option to buy the 23-year-old for €35m.

Three factors have sparked his renaissance: in contrast to Milan, Sevilla have faith in him; he is closer to his native land, with Sevilla only an hour-and-a-half drive away from a favourite spot of his in the Algarve; and in winger Jesus Navas he is now playing alongside an outstanding provider of chances.

6 Nicolas PEPE
LILLE

The explosive Ivorian right-winger has been a key factor in his side's evolution from domestic also-rans into possible Champions League participants and he scored the first hat-trick of his career in a 3-2 win away at Amiens.

Born and brought up in the Paris suburb of Mantes-la-Jolie, he was pursued by Sevilla, Lyon and Schalke this summer, and the 23-year-old is now rumoured to be on the watch-list of Arsenal, Manchester United and Barcelona, with a market value of €40m.

A goalkeeper until he was 13, he played in the youth ranks of Solitaires and Poitiers in the French fourth tier before joining Angers at 18. Lille signed him up four years later at the request of then-coach Marcelo Bielsa.

kuten
17
BARÇA

BREAKOUT STAR

Words: Nick Bidwell

After an injury-interrupted start to his career in Spain, Barcelona's French star is now making his mark

A conurbation in Normandy of just 50,000 inhabitants, Evreux has emerged in the past couple of decades as one of the most fertile areas for footballing talent in France. Former France full-back Bernard Mendy, ex-Lille, Paris Saint-Germain and Lyon midfielder Mathieu Bodmer and current Marseille and *Les Bleus* keeper Steve Mandanda all come from the town. As does potentially the best of the lot: 21-year-old Ousmane Dembele, who cost €105million when he joined Barcelona from Borussia Dortmund last year.

A member of France's World Cup-winning squad this summer, Dembele now calls Camp Nou and Stade de France home. But as an adolescent he had to make do with a rectangle of tarmac among the housing blocks of the down-at-heel Madeleine quarter of Evreux.

Known as the "Play" – anglicised no doubt for greater coolness – this was ▸

Timeline

SEP 10, 2013
Wins his first cap for France under-17s, in a goalless draw with Ukraine.

OCT 8, 2014
Makes his debut for France under-18s, in a 1-1 draw with Canada.

SEP 6, 2015
Makes his debut for Rennes, in Ligue 1 against Angers, appearing as a sub for the last five minutes of the game.

NOV 13, 2015
Wins his first cap for France under-19s, in a 1-1 draw with Serbia.

NOV 22, 2015
Gets his first Ligue 1 goal, opening the scoring in a 2-2 draw with Bordeaux.

MAR 6, 2016
Scores his first Ligue 1 hat-trick, in a 4–1 victory over Nantes.

the place where he began his footballing apprenticeship. The narrative is common: the smallest kid with the celestial ability.

"You could say all us kids did our bit in helping 'Ous' develop his skills," declares Dembele's cousin, Amadou Diatta. "At the 'Play' we'd usually start one of those rondo games and he never seemed to end up as the piggy in the middle.

"Then we'd go and practise our crossing and shooting. Right foot and left foot. He was knee-high to a grasshopper but was already nutmegging opponents.

"It was obvious he wasn't like the others, that he was better than everybody else. That was his destiny."

From the age of six he was playing organised football, too. Ahmed Wahbi, a coach at local club ALM Evreux – later to become Evreux FC following a merger – spotted the youngster turning on the style on a patch of wasteland and, after a successful sales pitch to Dembele's mother Fatimata, he got him on board.

It was paradise gained for a football-crazy kid like Ousmane, with a place at one of Normandy's best, most structured amateur clubs, boasting some 600 players in all categories and two or three training sessions a week, plus a game on a Sunday.

It was a copious diet of football by anyone's standards but not enough for the young Dembele, who when training finished at the Stade du 14 Juillet would immediately join his friends for an extended kickabout. He could not get enough of the game – and too bad if it meant incurring his mother's wrath for returning home late and not concentrating on his homework.

Talent...Dembele (circled) at Evreux

"He was so passionate about football," says under-14 coach Romaric Bultel. "He went to school with a ball, he ran errands with a ball, he went to the store with a ball. It was his comfort blanket."

Wahbi remembers the youngster for his diligence and discipline, recalling: "In all his time with us I don't think he missed a single game or training session and was never late. Rain or shine, he was there. He never stopped making progress. He listened to advice. He was a worker.

"The only thing which frightened him was being forbidden to play football. One day his primary school headmistress rang me to say he'd been naughty. She knew football was the only way to get through to him and asked me to intervene.

"I threatened not to pick him for our next game. I warned him that he would have to leave the club if he continued to behave badly. He cried, he looked disconsolate. He apologised and was never in trouble again."

> "It was obvious he wasn't like the others, that he was better than everybody else. That was his destiny"
>
> **Dembele's cousin, Amadou Diatta**

In terms of his basic playing style not much has changed since those days at the Evreux academy. Back then, as now, he was a vibrant, instinctive attacker with incredible close control and comfortable using either foot.

No one in the Evreux youth system worked harder than him in "weaker-foot only" drills.

"When I first saw him in action I was amazed to see him take corners from both sides of the pitch with his left or right foot," says Evreux schoolboy coach Gregory Badoche. "I asked him about it and he nonchalantly replied that it didn't bother him either way. It was a response which stuck with me."

Coaches at the Evreux academy did not need a UEFA A licence to realise they had a gem in their midst. In young Ousmane they had a guaranteed game-breaker who was dribbling and goalscoring machine. The sort of mini-genius who had no problem competing in higher age categories. His best display in those formative years was probably for the under-12s in a 7-0 hammering of Corsican outfit Bastia.

On occasion his talent could irritate the Evreux guardians. With Ousmane capable of deciding a match on his own, team-mates found it easy to shirk responsibility, happy just give him the ball and let him work his magic.

"When he was in my under-13 side I tried to work on his mental approach, to encourage him to mature, to be more collectively aware," recalls Badoche. "Initially, he didn't take it well.

"In one game I had to substitute him early for going on a long dribble. He came to understand, though."

On hitting his teens, the only career path Dembele had in mind was that of a professional footballer. Aware of the good he could do as his family's main breadwinner he strove even harder to make the grade.

In the early days times were tough indeed for the Dembele fraternity. The Madeleine district was an unemployment hot spot and for his mother – a lone parent of Mauritanian and Senegalese descent – life was a relentless struggle to feed and clothe Ousmane, his brother and two sisters.

"While walking to training at Evreux, 'Ous' was always talking of being a full-time footballer," recalls his cousin Moustapha Diatta. "His big hope was

MAR 24, 2016
At 18, makes his debut for France under-21s, in a 2-0 victory over Scotland.

MAY 12, 2016
Signs a five-year contract with Borussia Dortmund, which is effective as of July 1.

AUG 14, 2016
Makes his Dortmund debut in a 2-0 loss to Bayern Munich in the German Super Cup.

SEP 1, 2016
Makes his senior France debut, in a 3-1 friendly win over Italy.

SEP 20, 2016
Scores his first goal for his new club in a 5-1 Bundesliga win against Wolfsburg.

"The kid is a pleasure and a satisfaction. He goes out onto the field to enjoy himself. He plays in Ligue 1 as he would in the schoolyard"

Former Rennes coach Rolland Courbis

to earn enough to take the family out of our quarter."

At 13 his dream began to take form as glowing reports of the speedster with the velvety touch stirred the interest of PSG, Lens, Nimes, Caen, Valenciennes and Le Havre. "Dembouz", however, finally opted to join the youth system at Breton outfit Rennes, an alliance which was part fate, part recruiter persistence.

"I first saw Ousmane when he was eight or nine," recalled Rennes scout Armand Djire in an interview with *L'Echo Republicain* newspaper. "I'd gone to a match in Evreux to look at a young keeper. During a break in play I turned my head and saw a group of kids practising on an adjoining pitch.

"There was Ousmane. He really stood out with his skills. I found out his name and made a note of it. Two years later I went to check him out again for Rennes. He had something extra which the kids of his age didn't possess. He already was inventing his own tricks.

"I'd regularly watch him play and got to know him and his family. We earned their trust and put together a special support plan for him at Rennes. We brought his family along with him and saw to it that their professional and personal needs were satisfied." A flat and a job in other words.

If there is a theme that runs through Dembele's sporting life it's his willingness to rebel against perceived injustices, and as an 18-year-old Rennes reserve team player he came close to quitting the club in a huff. The cause of his frustration was zero first-team opportunities and the club's tardiness in offering him a first pro contract. Rumoured to be on the radar of Manchester City, Red Bull Salzburg and Benfica, Dembele was determined to severe his ties with the Bretons, and in the summer and autumn of 2015 a sustained stand-off ensued.

Without the work as peacemaker of then-Rennes presidential advisor Mickael Silvestre – who was formerly a defender with Manchester United, Arsenal and France – the deadlock might never have been solved.

"The affair dragged on for a long time and required a lot of diplomacy to sort out," says Silvestre. "Ousmane had boycotted pre-season training and a preparation camp in Germany. However, he finally saw reason and decided that he would, after all, sign with us.

"It was a complicated business. When the transfer window closed that summer he sent us a text saying that he was disgusted with the situation and wanted to stop playing the game. He said he was going to Senegal with his grandmother and even showed us his boarding card."

Dembele would adopt the same approach in the summer of 2017 in his attempts to force Dortmund to sell him to Barcelona. He went on strike for two weeks, incurring a club suspension, and was slammed up and down Germany for his unprincipled, mercenary attitude. Just a year earlier he had been delighted to sign a five-year deal with the *Schwarz-Gelben*; now he was setting up a one-man picket line. His was a display of ingratitude personified screamed the critics.

A lifelong Barca and Lionel Messi fan, Dembele simply could not understand Dortmund's reluctance to let him go. His dream move was in the offing and to make it happen he was ready to go to any lengths.

"What else could I have done?" he quizzed an interviewer from French magazine *Onze-Mondial*. "I'd like to ask all those who've criticised me how they would have behaved if they were in my shoes. I was in contact with Barcelona while at Rennes. I couldn't miss out on a transfer to Barcelona for a second time."

Nothing, it seems, is ever plain sailing for Dembele.

A mere three weeks after joining Barcelona he was sidelined for over three months with a ruptured thigh muscle and since making his senior international debut for France in a January 2016 friendly against Italy he has yet to completely carve out a niche for himself with his national side. He started only two of their games in this summer's triumphant World Cup campaign – the group phase ties versus Australia and Denmark, and was particularly disappointing against the Socceroos.

France boss Didier Deschamps

Start...Rennes gave him his first opportunity

NOV 22, 2016
Gets the first Champions League goal of his career in a 6-4 win against Legia Warsaw.

MAY 27, 2017
Scores the opening goal as Dortmund beat Eintracht Frankfurt 2-1 in the German Cup Final.

JUN 13, 2017
Scores his first goal for France in a 3-2 friendly win against England.

AUG 28, 2017
Passes his medical at Barcelona and signs a five-year contract.

SEP 9, 2017
Makes his Barca debut as a 68th-minute substitute in a 5-0 win against local rivals Espanyol at Camp Nou.

SEP 16, 2017
Injures a hamstring on his first start in La Liga, against Getafe, and is ruled out for four months.

Dream move... joining Barcelona

continues to include the youngster in his squad and clearly appreciates his speed and deep threat. But he expects much, much more from the Barca winger.

"Ousmane has to be more consistent," explained Deschamps at a recent federation press conference. "He has to engage with all the demands of football at the highest level. I don't think he's totally got to grips with that.

"However, he's only young and very much has the attacking qualities to unblock situations. He's had a good start to the season with Barca. He's been decisive and scored goals."

Some might argue that the root cause of Dembele's under-par productivity with the national team is the Deschamps system itself. The latter is essentially a defensive-minded coach who is as risk-averse as it is possible to be. Ousmane is the exact opposite: insouciant, adventurous, the total free-spirit package.

> "What else could I have done...I couldn't miss out on a transfer to Barcelona for a second time"

Certainly Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel did a wonderful job of bringing the best out of him in the 2016-17 campaign. Tuchel, now in charge of Paris Saint-Germain, is usually considered a cold, unsympathetic character, but he treated Dembele with almost paternalistic care. In many ways, the youngster was TT's pet project, a canvas he just loved to paint on.

Tuchel did not merely ask the French youngster to hug the left or right touchlines, he often used him inside too, allowing him to flit back and forth between a number 10 role and the right flank. Inventive, elusive and brimming over with tempo and unpredictability, Dembele proved to be a Westfalenstadion sensation.

That season he ticked every box: the numbers (nine goals and 21 assists in all competitions); the big-game decisiveness – notably when inspiring his side to a 3-2 German Cup semi-final victory in Bayern Munich's backyard; and the conquest of his first-ever professional title, the German Cup. Not bad for a player who only cost the Dortmunder €15m.

"Thomas was a coach who had a lot of faith in me," gushed Dembele on Barca TV shortly after arriving at Camp Nou last year. "He was always there at my side and taught me so much. He wouldn't hesitate to pull me up and point out where I was going wrong."

Significantly, Tuchel was one of the few high-profile Germans to defend Dembele for his controversial departure to Barcelona and, given the pair's close relationship, it would be no surprise at all if they were reunited in the Gallic capital in a not-too-distant future.

Dembele was also intelligently handled by Rennes in his first-team breakthrough season in 2015-16. Allowed to play his natural, electric game and not over-burdened by defensive instructions, the then 18-year-old fearlessly seized his chance. Devilishly difficult to stop when dribbling and ice-cool in his finishing, he got 12 goals in Ligue 1.

Like Tuchel, Rennes would deploy him in a variety of positions: left wing, right wing, second striker and attacking midfielder. Wherever he lined up he spelt menace, and in March 2016 he further enhanced his reputation with a brilliant hat-trick in a 4-1 thumping of Nantes, the first triple of his career. It was a one-two-three to suit every taste: a sweetly struck half-volley from the edge of the box, a spot of acrobatic ball-diversion in the red zone, then a composed finish following a solo raid and a destabilising drop of the shoulder.

"I think I've succeeded in finding his best role on the pitch," said Rennes coach Rolland Courbis at the time.

"I like him as a nine-and-a-half ºbehind the main striker. It's similar to how Monaco have Mbappe playing off Falcao up front. The kid is a pleasure and a satisfaction. He goes out onto the field to enjoy himself.

"He plays in Ligue 1 as he would in the schoolyard."

Never short of a memorable turn of phrase, it is those final words from Courbis which perhaps sums up the essence of "Dembouz". WS

Support...with Thomas Tuchel

MAR 14, 2018
Scores his first Barca goal in a 3-0 second leg win in the Champions League round of 16 against Chelsea.

APR 17, 2018
Scores his first La Liga goal in a 2-2 draw with Celta Vigo.

APR 29, 2018
Part of the Barca side that beats Deportivo La Coruna 4-2 to win La Liga with four games to spare.

APR 21, 2018
Is a second-half sub as Barca beat Sevilla 5-0 in the Spanish Cup Final.

JUL 15, 2018
Is an unused substitute as France beat Croatia 4-2 in the World Cup Final.

AUG 12, 2018
Scores the winning goal in a 2-1 win against Sevilla in the Spanish Super Cup.

Ousmane Dembele

Numbers Game

TRANSFER FEES

€15m

RENNES *to* **BORUSSIA DORTMUND** *(2016)*

€105m

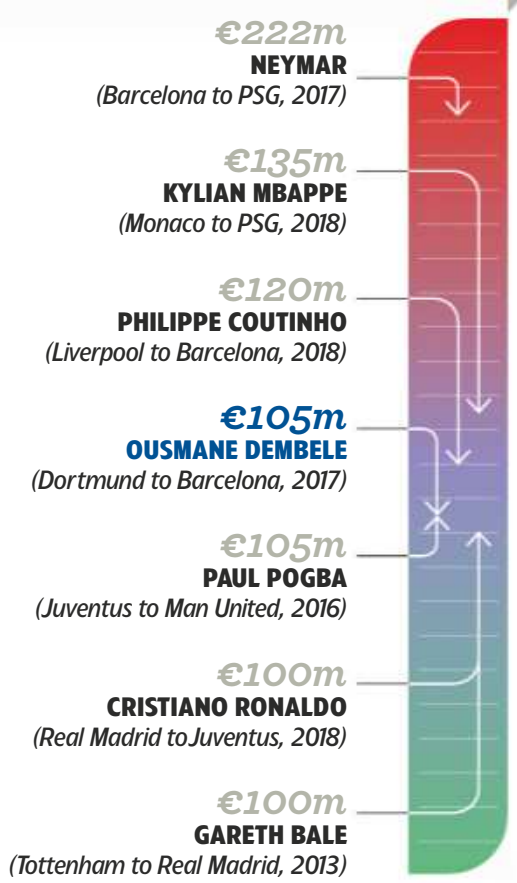
BORUSSIA DORTMUND *to* **BARCELONA** *(2017)*

FRANCE

20 CAPS

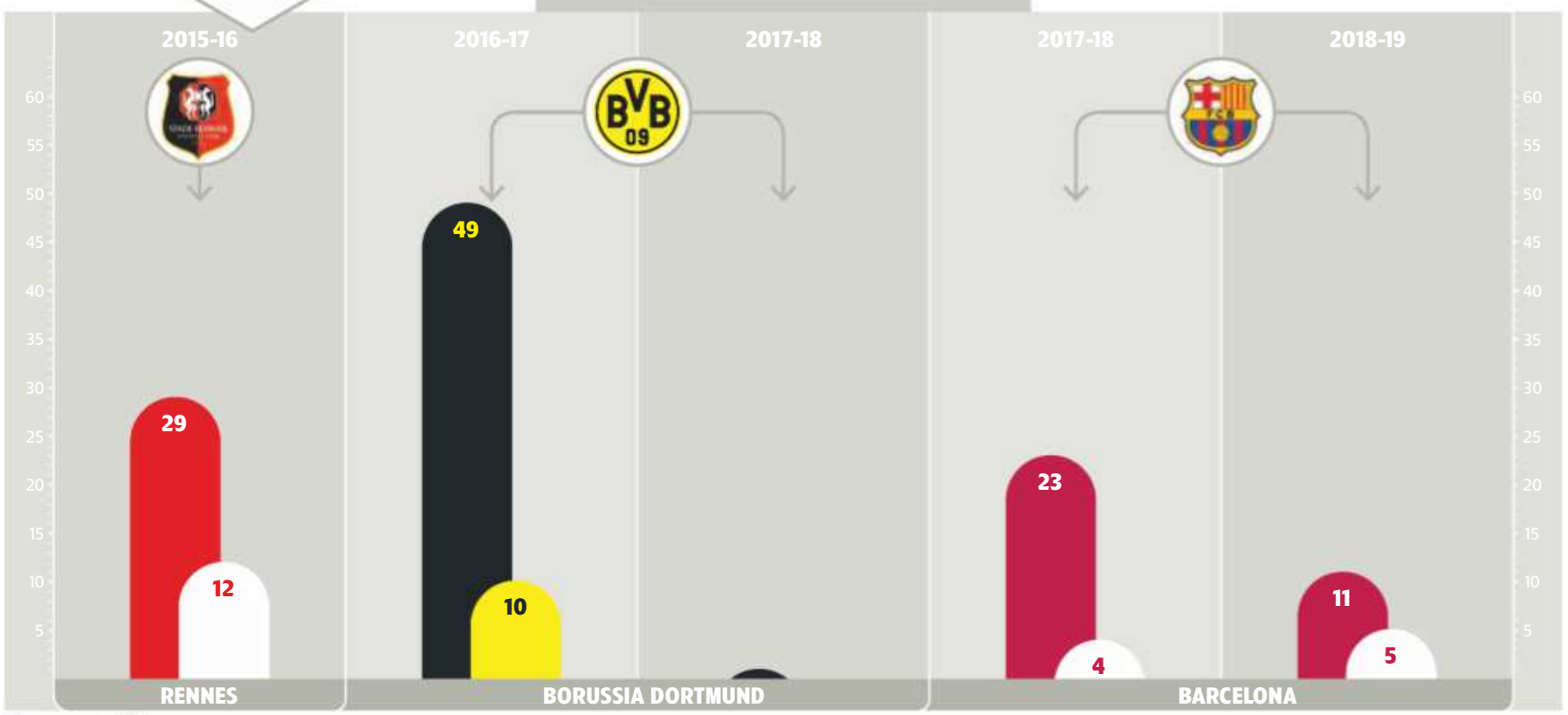
2 GOALS

ALL-TIME RECORD TRANSFERS



LIGUE 1 YOUNG PLAYER OF THE YEAR

HONOURS



GAMES GOALS *(up to & inc 24.10.18)*

Glenn Moore

FIFA plots expansion

Admirable aims won't be easy

Let the bells ring out: FIFA has doubled the prize money for the 2019 Women's World Cup and released a ground-breaking strategy aimed at getting all 211 constituent nations signed up to promoting the female game.

However, the problem with being an organisation whose reputation is as toxic as FIFA is that no one takes promises at face value. While the game's governing body has made changes since the downfall of Sepp Blatter and the ExCo, the jury remains out on whether it is truly reformed. Rather too much of the new leadership's actions seem reminiscent of the old.

Thus the scepticism surrounding the release of FIFA's "first ever global strategy for women's football". Former US keeper Hope Solo spoke for many when she said:

> **"Until their actions are in line with their words, then it is just more lip service"**
>
> Former US keeper Hope Solo on FIFA's promises about the women's game

"Until their actions are in line with their words, then it is just more lip service."

FIFA first claimed it wanted to transform the women's game in the FIFA 2.0 mission statement in 2016, though only three of the 69 pages focused on the women's game. Two years later it has finally produced a plan that is longer on dreams than detail.

While many of the aspirations are laudable, less clear is how they are going to be achieved. One is to "raise the profile of the FIFA Women's World Cup", yet even as the strategy was released it became clear FIFA was allowing the finals of next summer's men's Copa America and CONCACAF Gold Cup to be played on the same day as the Women's World Cup Final. As USA coach Jill Ellis said: "In my own personal opinion, playing three big matches in one day isn't supporting the women's game."

FIFA is expected to double the World Cup prize money from $15million to $30m. But Didier Deschamps' France took home more from Russia than all 24 women's teams will share next summer.

"I think they're probably looking for pats on the back for the increase, and they're not getting any from here," said US captain Megan Rapinoe. "Fifteen million dollars is nothing to them. It's a significant amount of money, I get that, for the teams, but where are they even pulling this number from?

"If they just want to sort of arbitrarily do it, they could increase it by $100m and wouldn't miss it."

The obvious response is that the men's World Cup funds the women's, and pretty much everything FIFA does, including the age-group tournaments for both genders – which is why one aim is notable, with FIFA seeking to increase the commercial clout of the women's game and "develop and implement a women's commercial football programme by 2026".

FIFA's chief women's football officer Sarai Bareman says: "I think we're trying to change the perception that women's football is not this kind of poor little sister waiting for the handout from the big brother of men's football. We want to bring it into the mainstream."

Other initiatives include a dedicated women's football division, a commitment to significantly increase the number of women in leading positions in FIFA, a desire to double participation worldwide to 60 million with every FA having a comprehensive women's plan in place by 2022, and women on every FA executive.

Outspoken...former USA keeper Hope Solo in the 2015 World Cup Final against Japan

Few games... Argentina's Maria Bosegundo (right)

All of which is very worthy. But will it actually happen?

There will be stern resistance in some parts of the world. In Iran, for example, there seemed some liberalisation in allowing women to watch matches when around 100 were allowed to attend a friendly with Bolivia in Tehran. However, even the presence of this hand-picked, segregated group infuriated conservatives in the Islamic republic. Prosecutor general Mohammad Jafar Montazeri said: "We will deal with any official who wants to allow women inside stadiums under any pretext. When a woman goes to a stadium and is faced with half-naked men in sports clothes and sees them it will lead to sin."

Another 2018 men's World Cup finalist, Saudi Arabia, while politically at odds with Iran, is equally hardline. Unlike Iran they do not even have a national women's team.

The kingdom is not the only state without a women's team. There are 210 men's teams in the FIFA rankings but only 177 women's – of which 30 are unranked, having either not played for 18 months or played less than five matches in total.

A significant number only ever play

Promotion... Sarai Bareman (right) and FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura with the 2019 Women's World Cup mascot, ettie

regional championships and even a major football nation such as Argentina did not play a women's international between December 2014 and October 2017.

There will be pushback from some of the established parts of the women's game at the idea of a new global club competition. Federations such as UEFA will see that as a power grab and fixture congestion could be an issue. The clubs will, though, be encouraged at the prospect of being compensated for their players' participation at a World Cup, like men's clubs are, and the players will welcome FIFA's likely funding of business-class flights to the finals.

FIFA advocates point to the many programmes it funds, from India to Peru, from workshops to tournaments, to promote the women's game. There is a lot of good work being done under the radar, but with the big-picture initiatives it remains a case of wait and see. WS

Round-up

Debutants...Jamaica

HOLDERS TO DEFEND TITLE

World Cup holders USA booked a place at the summer's finals, beating Canada 2-0 in the CONCACAF Women's Championship Final, with goals from Rose Lavelle and Alex Morgan.

Canada also qualified along with Jamaica, who are off to their first finals after taking third-place from Panama in a penalty shoot-out. Panama, who sprang a big surprise by knocking out Mexico, face a play-off with Argentina in November for a slot in France.

In Europe the last qualifying place is between Holland and Switzerland after the Dutch beat Denmark in a repeat of the Euro 2017 Final and the Swiss saw off Belgium.

The Africa Women's Nations Cup will

Winner ...Marta

produce three more qualifiers, while Oceania's representative will be decided by the OFC Women's Nations Cup in New Caledonia.

MARTA THE BEST AGAIN

There was some surprise when Marta was voted Women's World Player of the Year in FIFA's The Best awards.

The 32-year-old has now won the award six times but on this occasion she has had an unspectacular year with Brazil and Orlando Pride.

Lyon players Ada Hegerberg (Norway) and Dzsenifer Marozsan (Germany) also made the top three. Australia's Sam Kerr and Denmark's Pernille Harder were notable omissions.

Abused... Karen Carney

FA DEFEND ABUSED CARNEY

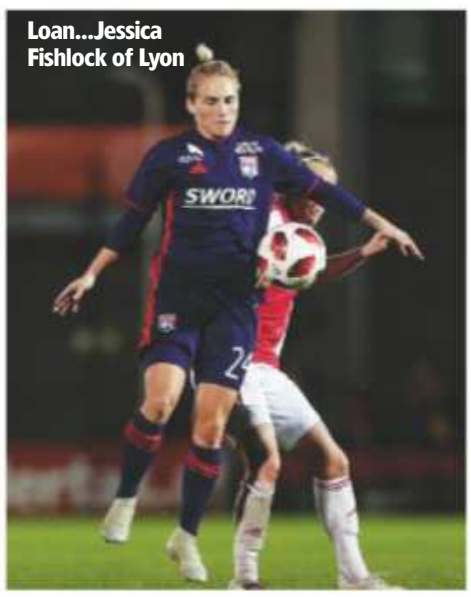
The English FA complained to Instagram after a post on the social-media site addressed to Chelsea captain Karen Carney stated: "I wish you cancer and leukemia and I hope someone will rape you to death."

England manager Phil Neville highlighted the abuse and, after the FA became involved, Instagram removed the post. The FA called for action from police and social-media organisations "to tackle this growing problem".

FISHLOCK TO FRANCE

Wales midfielder Jess Fishlock made a surprise loan move to European champions Lyon from Seattle Reign at the conclusion of the US season.

Fishlock, who usually plays in Australia's W-League in the winter, will stay to the end of Lyon's Champions League campaign.



Loan...Jessica Fishlock of Lyon

October 2006

Champions League goes from strength to strength

Riches...Arsenal (in yellow) and Barcelona in the previous season's Champions League Final

World Soccer editor Gavin Hamilton's introduction to the Champions League preview pointed out how the competition was continuing to grow financially, with the 2006-07 tournament set to bring in an estimated £505million from TV revenue and sponsorship.

A huge figure, indeed – although one that is dwarfed by the €2.04billion that will be distributed to clubs competing in this season's Champions League and UEFA Super Cup.

However, as Hamilton explains, the way that the money was handed out was hugely controversial, writing: "The TV payouts remain the most contentious aspect of the Champions League financial package. The sums of money are paid out to clubs depending on the value of their home country's TV market.

"So, the biggest payouts go to the clubs with the biggest audiences."

As an example of this he reveals how, of the previous season's two finalists, runners-up Arsenal earned more than winners Barcelona – £23m against £20.75m – due to the value of the English TV market.

But as he also adds: "UEFA president Lennart Johansson is none too concerned about the inequalities in such a system.

"The Champions League continues to provide UEFA with the cash to make 'solidarity payments' of more than £100m to the continent's smaller associations."

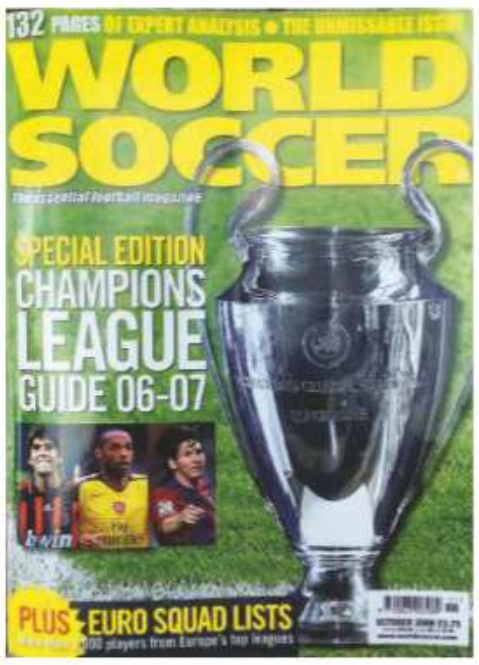
With Johansson standing for re-election the following year the Swede said "it's necessary to protect the small ones...we must ensure everyone benefits".

The issue profiled all 32 teams in the group stage of the competition and said of eventual winners Milan "they have every chance of succeeding" and highlighted the fact that Filippo Inzaghi – who would score both of the Italian side's goals in their 2-1 win over Liverpool in the Final – had "been in great form early in the campaign".

But Hamilton also wondered whether Milan should have even been in the competition in the first place.

"Should Milan be competing in this season's Champions League after their involvement in the Maggiopoli scandal?" he asked. "The question vexed UEFA over the summer before it had no option but to admit them."

Returning to the riches on offer, Hamilton went on to suggest that "in addition to prize money of around £15m, the winners will probably earn at least that again in TV pool money". WS



"Should Milan be competing in this season's Champions League after their involvement in the Maggiopoli scandal? The question vexed UEFA over the summer before it had no option but to admit them"

Also in this issue

p6 John Holmesdale reported on how West Ham United signed Argentinian World Cup stars Carlos Tevez and Javier Mascherano from a Brazilian club side on transfer deadline day, but explained: "West Ham stumped up around £2million, most of it agents' fees, to sign the players, with no money going to Corinthians."

p22-23 Northern Ireland produced a shock 3-2 victory over Spain in Belfast, after which Sid Lowe told how Spanish daily *AS* ran a front page that stated: "The red shirt shames us." Lowe said that Spain "were simply awful, their defending comic, their passing slack" and how coach Luis Aragones was on borrowed time.

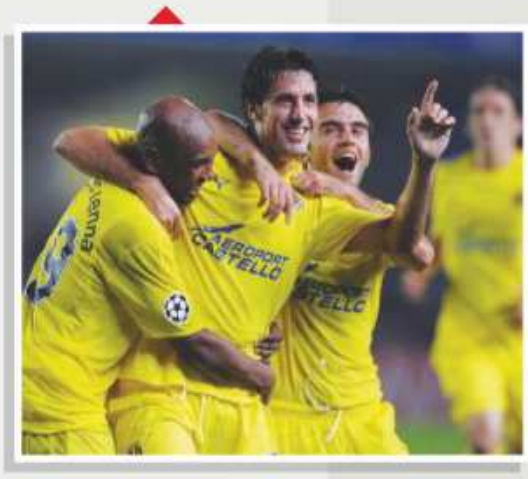
p86-87 Internacional won the Libertadores Cup for the first time, beating fellow Brazilian side Sao Paulo 4-3 on aggregate in the Final. Brian Homewood felt "there was little doubt that the trophy went to the right team" and explained that although "largely comprising journeyman professionals", Inter were "committed to attack".

p88-89 Relegated to Serie B, Juventus began life in the Italian second tier with a 1-1 draw away to Rimini. As Keir Radnedge pointed out, Juve "are now under no illusions – it took just 90 minutes to shatter the dream of quickly wiping out their 17-point penalty, the lesser part of their punishment for match fixing, and cruising back to Serie A".

p94 Finland ended coach Roy Hodgson's seven-game winless run with a shock 3-1 victory in Poland that had the Englishman claiming: "Our tactics worked perfectly. We did not hoist aimless long balls, but based our game on neat passing."

10 years ago

Villarreal score four in the last 23 minutes, including a hat-trick by sub Joseba Llorente, to beat Aalborg BK 6-3 in the Champions League.



20 years ago

Having succeeded Guus Hiddink as coach, Frank Rijkaard makes his debut in charge of Holland with a 2-0 friendly win over Peru in Eindhoven.

30 years ago

Romario opens the scoring for Brazil in the Olympic Final but Russia come from behind to beat the South Americans 2-1 in extra time in Seoul.

40 years ago

Making just his second international appearance, Ian Edwards scores four times as Wales beat Malta 7-0 in their opening qualifier for Euro 80.

50 years ago

Estudiantes draw 1-1 at Manchester United – who have George Best sent off – to win the Intercontinental Cup 2-1 on aggregate.

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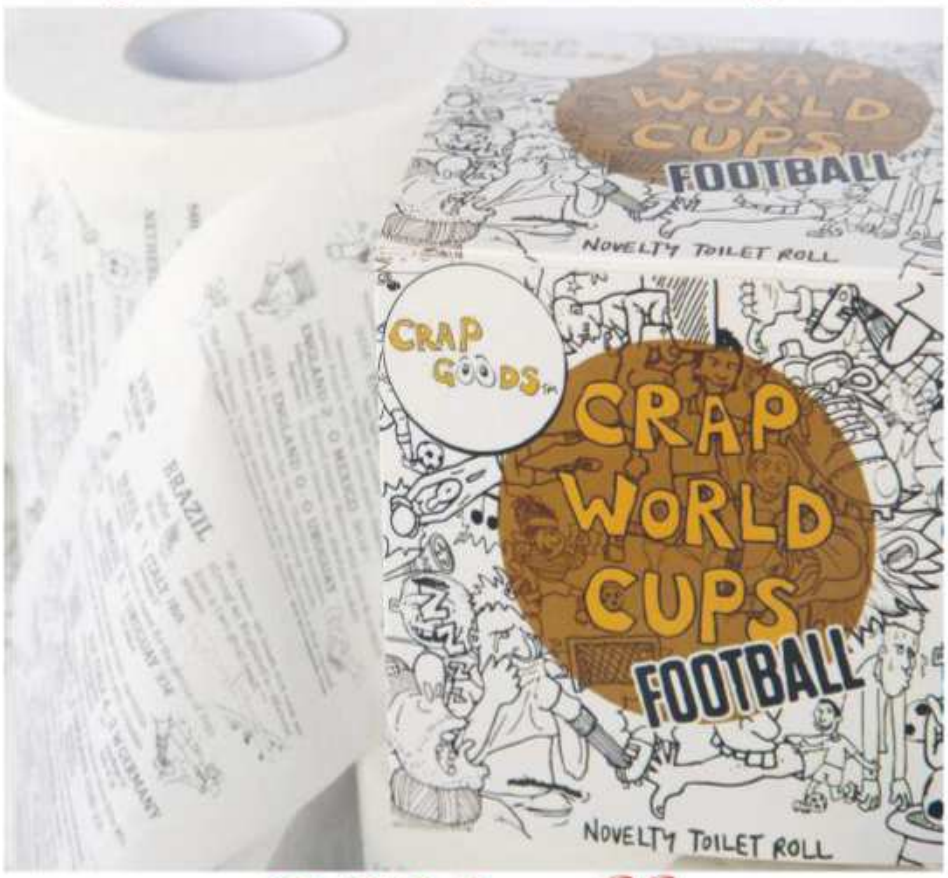

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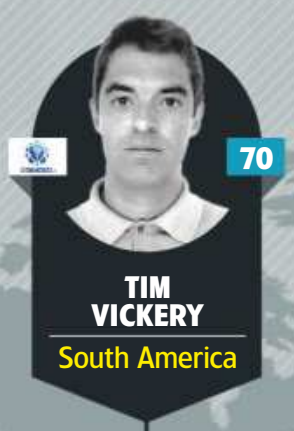

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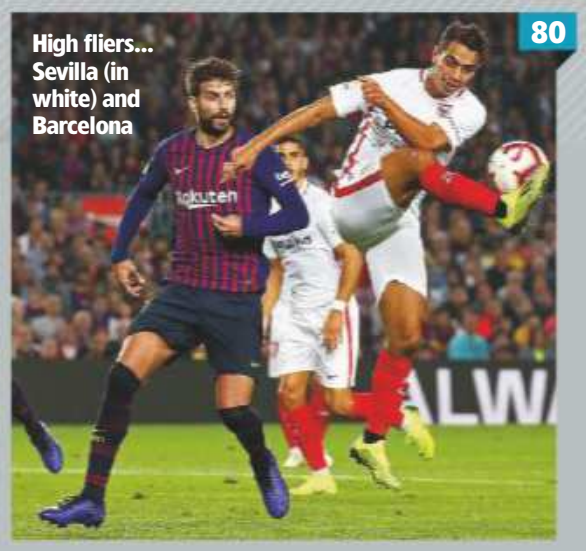

High fliers... Sevilla (in white) and Barcelona 80

SEPTEMBER 28-OCTOBER 24, 2018

Global diary

A comprehensive record of recent events around the world

Friday September 28

GERMANY: Bayern Munich lose for the first time this season, beaten 2-0 away at Hertha Berlin.
ITALY: Former Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi completes his takeover of Serie C club Monza.

Saturday September 29

ETHIOPIA: Defense Force win the Ethiopian Cup for a 14th time, beating Saint George on penalties after a goalless draw.
GERMANY: Schalke get their first points of the season with a 1-0 victory over Mainz.
ICELAND: With three clubs still in title contention going into the final game of the season, Valur retain their crown with a 4-1 victory at home to Keflavik.
ITALY: Juventus beat second-place Napoli 3-1 to extend their lead at the top of Serie A to six points.
SPAIN: Two fans are carried away on stretchers when part of a stand collapses during Sevilla's 3-1 victory at Eibar. Vinicius Junior makes his Real Madrid debut as an 88th-minute sub in a 0-0 draw at home to neighbours Atletico Madrid.

Sunday September 30

AUSTRIA: Rapid Vienna part company with coach Goran Djuricin after Saturday's 2-0 loss at home to St Polten.

Monday October 1

ITALY: After appeals by Catania, Novara, Ternana, Pro Vercelli and Siena are rejected, Serie B will continue with 19 teams rather than the usual 22.

Tuesday October 2

ARGENTINA: River Plate beat domestic rivals Independiente 3-1 to reach the Libertadores Cup semi-finals where they will face Gremio of Brazil, whose 4-0 win against Atletico Tucman gives them a 6-0 victory on aggregate over the Argentinian side.
AUSTRIA: Rapid Vienna's new boss is Dietmar Kuhbauer – who was in charge of the St Polten side that beat them at the weekend.
DENMARK: The Danish Football Association and the country's players' union reach a collective pay agreement following a dispute over commercial rights which saw senior internationals make themselves unavailable for the national side.
FRANCE: Second from bottom of Ligue 1, Nantes replace under-fire Portuguese coach Miguel Cardoso with Vahid Halilhodzic.
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: CSKA shock Real Madrid 1-0 in Moscow, while Edin Dzeko gets a hat-trick as Roma beat Viktoria Plzen 5-0 and Paulo Dybala scores all three goals in Juventus' 3-0 win over Young Boys.
USA: Tampa Bay Rowdies, who are currently battling for a place in the USL play-offs, are bought by Tampa Bay Rays baseball team.

Wednesday October 3

BRAZIL: Palmeiras win 2-0 at home to Colo-Colo of Chile to progress 4-0 on aggregate to the semi-finals of the Libertadores Cup.
ENGLAND: Armenian midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan does not travel to Azerbaijan for Arsenal's Europa League tie against Qarabag due to political tensions between his native country and the host nation.
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Napoli beat Liverpool with a last-minute goal from Lorenzo Insigne, while Barcelona win 4-2 away to Tottenham Hotspur. Neymar gets a hat-trick as Paris Saint-Germain thrash Red Star 6-1.

Thursday October 4

ARGENTINA: Boca Juniors draw 1-1 in Brazil against Cruzeiro to win 3-1 on aggregate in the Libertadores Cup quarter-finals.
ENGLAND: Gareth Southgate signs a new contract to remain as England manager until the 2022 World Cup.
EUROPA LEAGUE: Arsenal, Chelsea and Milan maintain their winning starts to the group phase, beating Qarabag, Vidi and Olympiakos respectively.

Friday October 5

SLOVAKIA: Spartak Trnava are ordered to play their next Europa League home game, versus Dinamo Zagreb on October 25, behind closed doors after racist chanting

Upset...CSKA Moscow's Mario Fernandes (in red) challenges Nacho as they beat Real Madrid 1-0 in the Champions League

Pressure... Alassane Plea (in white) of Borussia Monchengladbach opens the scoring against Bayern

against Anderlecht in September.

Saturday October 6

GERMANY: The pressure mounts on coach Nico Kovac as Bayern Munich lose 3-0 at home to Borussia Monchengladbach.
SPAIN: Manu Garcia scores in the fifth minute of extra time as Alaves win 1-0 and beat Real Madrid in La Liga for the first time since 1931.
SWITZERLAND: After nine opening wins, Young Boys lose 3-2 at home to Lucerne.

Sunday October 7

ENGLAND: Riyad Mahrez misses a late penalty as Manchester City draw 0-0 and miss the chance to win away to Liverpool for the first time in 15 years.
FRANCE: Kylian Mbappe scores four times as Paris Saint-Germain beat Lyon 5-0 to set a new Ligue 1 record with a ninth straight league win since the start of the season.
GERMANY: Stuttgart dismiss ➤

Hero...Kylian Mbappe against Lyon

African Nations Cup

MARK GLEESON

Unusual...celebrations have been rare for Madagascar

Madagascar reach finals for first time

History beckons for the Malagasy after half a century

After almost 50 years and 16 attempts at qualifying, Madagascar will play in the African Nations Cup finals following a 1-0 victory over Equatorial Guinea. Njiva Rakotoharimalala's 42nd-minute goal in the highland town of Vontovorona ensured a nervy win and an unassailable position in the top two of Group A.

Victory in Sudan in their opening game in June last year set the tone and they have been led to new heights by Nicolas Dupuis, a feisty Frenchman who has been in charge since February 2017. Much of that success has come from the coach persuading French-born talent such as Thomas Fontaine, Jerome Mombris, Fabien Boyer and Roman Metanire to play for the country. Ligue 1 players Zacharie Boucher of Angers and Strasbourg's Ludovic Ajorque could also be persuaded to commit to the cause as Dupuis begins preparations for the finals.

Football on the island nation remains mostly undeveloped and amateur, and the Malagasy have also been largely isolated because of their geographical position to the east of the continent.

"When I was named coach said that the team had to play more friendlies," says Dupuis. "Playing three or four games a year would not help us advance.

"Since then, we've used all the FIFA dates to play friendly matches. I also set about recruiting players with Malagasy roots and selling them the ambitions we had. They've all taken up the challenge and become deeply involved in our project. We've gone through a rich and unique experience."

The decisive match had to be played away from their usual home venue, the Mahamasina Stadium in the capital Antananarivo, after one fan was killed and 41 others injured in a stampede in October when they drew with Senegal. That led to a three-match stadium ban and Madagascar's next home qualifier – against Sudan – will be played at a smaller club stadium in Antananarivo.

Joining them in Cameroon next summer will be Senegal, who topped their group, and Egypt and Tunisia, who occupy the first two places in Group J, where minnows Niger and eSwatini (formerly Swaziland) provided little opposition.

November's penultimate round of games – the top two in 11 of the 12 groups will go through to the finals next June – should go a long way to delivering more teams for the expanded field at the 2019 finals, including one or two other potential newcomers.

Burundi and Mauritania are still in the race to book a first-ever berth at the finals and bring to 42 the number of countries who have played at the finals.

Burundi, for whom Saido Berahino made his debut in September, are chasing a top-two finish in Group C, while Mauritania, coached by former France midfielder Corentin Martins, lead Group I after beating Angola in their last game and will qualify if they beat Botswana in Nouakchott on November 18.

Guinea, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Uganda and Zimbabwe should also book their places, while Kenya must await CAF's decision on what to do about Sierra Leone, whose two games against Ghana in October were called off when FIFA issued a ban for government interference in the football association.

CAF could award both matches 3-0 to Ghana or disqualify Sierra Leone, in which case their results will be expunged. Either outcome would see Kenya go through to the finals. WS

➤ coach Tayfun Korkut after Saturday's 3-1 loss to Hanover sees them go bottom of the table.
SINGAPORE: Albirex Niigata Singapore beat Brunei DPMM 4-1 to become the first team to win the Singapore Cup four years in a row.
SOUTH KOREA: Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors draw 2-2 with Ulsan Hyundai and retain the K League title with six matches to spare.

Monday October 8

RUSSIA: Russia's interior ministry opens an investigation after internationals Aleksandr Kokorin of Zenit and Krasnodar's Pavel Mamaev are accused of attacking a civil servant in a cafe in Moscow.

Tuesday October 9

GERMANY: Out of work since being sacked by Schalke in June 2017, Stuttgart appoint Markus Weinzierl as their new coach.
ITALY: Chievo dismiss Lorenzo D'Anna and Genoa replace Davide Ballardini with Ivan Juric.
SIERRA LEONE: Back-to-back African Nations Cup qualifiers against Ghana are cancelled due to FIFA's suspension of the Sierra Leone Football Association following "government interference" that led to the removal of FA president Isha Johansen.

Wednesday October 10

ITALY: Sacked by Italy in November after failing to qualify for the World Cup, Gian Piero Ventura is named coach of Chievo. A 1-1 draw with Ukraine sees the national side equal their worst-ever run of five games without a win at home.
LIBYA: Omar Al Maryami takes interim control of the national side as Adel Amrouche quits four days before an African Nations Cup qualifier against Nigeria.
SPAIN: Bottom-of-the-table Huesca appoint Francisco as coach the day after sacking Leo Franco.

Thursday October 11

BELGIUM: Five people are charged following an investigation into the possible match fixing of two games last season involving Mechelen, who were relegated on goal difference, and Eupen, who survived. All Belgian second-tier games this coming weekend are postponed.
FRANCE: Monaco sack coach Leonardo Jardim with the club third from bottom of Ligue 1.
POLAND: A Portugal side without Cristiano Ronaldo spoil Robert

Mongolia

STEVE MENARY

Weiss plots exit from the wilderness

EAFF progress is just the start, says German boss

Making the second preliminary round of the East Asian Football Federation E-1 Championship was a big step for Mongolia, but the team's German coach Michael Weiss has a more realistic target than the finals in South Korea next year.

Mongolia had never progressed past the first stage of any international tournament before hosting this year's qualifiers and they began by thrashing Macau 4-0 and Northern Mariana Islands 9-0.

With Guam having lost 2-0 to Macau, a draw with the favourites would have been enough for Mongolia. The game was goalless until Devan Mendiola put Guam ahead in the 89th minute, but in the fourth minute of injury time midfielder Norjmoogin Tsedenbal grabbed a dramatic equaliser to send Mongolia through.

"We played some good football based on a strong defence and relied on a compact midfield and a pressing game," says Weiss. "The cohesion was very good because we have been together for one-and-a-half years. We played lots of overseas tournaments and lost heavily, and got injuries from inexperience, but now we can't be happier."

The next stage of the tournament is in Chinese Taipei, from November 11 to 16, and pits Weiss' side against the hosts, Hong Kong and two-time World Cup qualifiers North Korea.

"I hope North Korea will bring a young team as maybe they will think they can beat us all," admits Weiss, who took the Mongolia job in January 2017.

Although individual sports such as archery and cycling tend to dominate in Mongolia, football is growing. From seven clubs in 2013, the league now has two divisions of 10 clubs, though only Khangarid and Deren of the 10 Premier League sides are from outside the capital Ulaanbaatar. The season is also restricted by the harsh winter.

"We only play 18 matches, from April to October," says Munkhbat Orkon, who is general-manager at Deren. "We need more matches and more rounds."

But expanding the league would lower the quality and not all of the clubs involved are keen. Enki Batsumber, who is the managing director of second division side Bayangol, is one of those against the idea, explaining: "In the top division sometimes the gap between top and bottom club can be significant enough that it's not competitive anymore.

"If you bring new and not-ready clubs to the league it will lower the quality of the league. Those

Success...Mongolia go through

Lewandowski's 100th appearance for Poland by coming from behind to win 3-2 in the Nations League.

Friday October 12

AUSTRALIA: Eight-time Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt scores twice for Central Coast Mariners in a 4-0 friendly victory against Macarthur South West.
ENGLAND: Jadon Sancho makes his debut in a goalless draw away to Croatia in England's first-ever game behind closed doors.

Saturday October 13

FRANCE: Thierry Henry is handed his first job as a coach by Monaco, where he was once a player.
GIBRALTAR: Joseph Chipolina's penalty gives Gibraltar a first competitive win, beating Armenia in the UEFA Nations League.
SLOVAKIA: Marek Hamsik scores in his record-breaking 108th game for Slovakia but is on the losing side as Czech Republic win 2-1.

Sunday October 14

BELGIUM: Pierre Kompany, who is the father of Manchester City captain Vincent Kompany, becomes Belgium's first black mayor after topping the poll for the municipality of Ganshoren in Brussels.
POLAND: A 1-0 loss at home to Italy sees Poland become the first team to be relegated in the UEFA Nations League.
SAINT KITTS & NEVIS: A 10-0 victory away to Saint Martin in the CONCACAF Nations League qualifiers equals Saint Kitts & Nevis' biggest-ever win.
SLOVAKIA: Assistant coach Stefan Tarkovic will lead the team in Tuesday's friendly against Sweden after Jan Kozak resigns.
THAILAND: Sinthaweechai Hathairattanakool plays the first 15 minutes of Thailand's 1-0 win against Trinidad & Tobago as the 36-year-old goalkeeper calls time on his 14-year international career.

Monday October 15

ENGLAND: With a 3-2 win in Seville, England are the first team to beat Spain at home in a competitive fixture for 15 years.
ICELAND: A 2-1 loss at home to Switzerland means Iceland are relegated from League A in the UEFA Nations League
SOUTH KOREA: Forty-eight days after resigning, Seo Jung-won returns to coach Suwon Samsung Bluewings until the end of the ➤

Late show... celebrating the equaliser against Guam

Focus on youth... Michael Weiss

clubs might face bankruptcy or disband. I see many clubs struggling in the second division financially and human-resource wise."

With no charge for admission, clubs rely on sponsors for income and the players are all part-time, earning from $150 to $500 a month in the top flight.

A few years ago foreign players began arriving and clubs are not allowed to field more than three overseas players at a time, while Weiss only uses domestic players as no Mongolians play abroad.

Murun Altankhuyag is one of the few local players to have played his club football overseas, having been involved in college soccer in the USA between 2009 and 2012, then featuring for Thai third-tier side Krabi and Serbian club Macva Sabac before returning home

> "We have been together for one-and-a-half years. We played lots of overseas tournaments and lost heavily, and got injuries from inexperience, but now we can't be happier"
>
> Michael Weiss

to sign for Ulaanbaatar City in 2016. However, the 29-year-old striker is not currently in the national set-up as Weiss prefers to focus on youth.

Of his current squad of players, Weiss – who also runs the country's under-19 and under-23 teams – says: "Many are students. Some work in banks and train part-time. They are all pure Mongolians, not players who have been naturalised.

"I tend to use younger players from 18 to 25, but in the EAFF I brought in a couple of older players at centre-back and a deep-lying midfielder."

Deren defender Bayasgalangiin Garidmagnai, who is 33, and 28-year-old Khoromkhon midfielder Khurelbaataryn Tsend-Ayuush are likely to feature in Chinese Taipei, but with only one qualifying spot up for grabs, joining China, Japan and South Korea in the final round is perhaps unrealistic.

But having now managed to progress through a senior qualifying round, Weiss believes that making the second round of the 2023 Asian Cup qualifiers is possible for Mongolia.

"If we get through we get eight matches in the group stage again against a big team like Japan or South Korea and some smaller countries," says Weiss. "This will be a good experience." WS

China

CAMERON WILSON

Training camp for youngsters

Uproar over Chinese FA's meddling

Chinese football again mired itself in controversy after the FA commandeered 55 players aged 25 and under from their clubs for a two-month military training camp, just as the domestic league entered its most critical phase.

The bizarre development in October abruptly relieved over a dozen sides of some of their most important players, with several of the affected teams in the midst of Chinese Super League (CSL) championship and relegation battles.

The call-ups included Beijing Guo'an forward Wei Shihao and midfielder Liao Lisheng of Guangzhou Evergrande, who are both full internationals.

Relegation-threatened Chongqing Lifan lost centre-half Luo Hao, while Shandong Luneng were the biggest victims, being shorn of six players ahead of the Chinese FA Cup Final against Guo'an.

Leading the camp is veteran Shen Xiangfu, who has coached a host of CSL teams including Beijing Guo'an and Shanghai Shenhua. The 61-year-old Beijinger is well-respected if unspectacular, with his sides noted for their conservative and uninspiring football. The appointment of such a relative unknown for the role came as a surprise considering big names Marcello Lippi and Guus Hiddink are in charge of the national and under-21 sides respectively.

The purloining of so many players at the business end of the season was met with universal outcry. "October 2 is the day Chinese football died," was a common refrain on social media as fans lamented the impact on the domestic league and blamed the "chaotic" Chinese FA (CFA) for compromising sporting integrity.

"We're a fifth of the way through the 21st century but we still have these moronic policies," complained one supporter of the national team.

Other reactions questioned how making players take part in a training camp of any kind was more beneficial than first-team football.

Local media were uncharacteristically outspoken in their opposition to the decision. A report in the *Jinan Times* quoted FIFA regulations which state clubs are not obliged to release players for national service outside designated international breaks and asked why any Chinese club would have done so voluntarily.

Other reports claimed clubs were still expected to pay the wages of the called-up players, who in turn were in breach of contract for not turning up to training for their clubs.

The most significant dissent came in a social media post from Beijing Guo'an chairman Zhou Jinhui, who opined: "The vast majority of people in Chinese football recognise that the root of the sport's problems lie in its management structure." He also stressed the need for the "natural law of football development" to be respected.

In the hierarchical world of Chinese football, where deference to authority is expected and open criticism is taboo, Zhou's remarks were significant and indicated that the move had not come without significant opposition from some powerful quarters. The Chinese

Big name... under-21 coach Guus Hiddink

> "October 2 is the day Chinese football died"
>
> Supporters on social media

Veteran...Shen Xiangfu is in charge of the training camp

Camp call-up...Wei Shihao (in yellow)

FA is currently without a chairman following the departure of former table tennis world champion Cai Zhenhua who entered office in 2014.

Indeed, news outlet *Titan Sports* carried a report quoting a source in the CFA stating that the decision to arrange the training camp had come directly from the General Administration of Sport – a government body which oversees the CFA. This prompted many observers to call for the CFA to be suspended by FIFA due to government interference.

FIFA could hardly turn a blind eye as the event happened right under its nose, with deputy secretary general Zvonimir Boban in Beijing for a two-day workshop as the controversy blew up. However, it all turned out to be business as usual. A grinning Boban was pictured shaking hands with Chinese football dignitaries and a report in the state mouthpiece, the *China Daily*, omitted any mention of the 55-man training camp, instead focusing on an exchange of platitudes between the Croatian and Du Zhaocai, secretary of the CFA's Party committee.

Aside from gripes on the timing and usefulness of the exercise, images emanating from the camp, once it got underway, were greeted with alarm in Chinese football circles.

In peculiar scenes that were more reminiscent of a Vietnam war movie than of professional football, players were pictured wearing army fatigues and having their heads shaved. The recruits were also snapped taking part in various drills and fitness exercises with no football paraphernalia anywhere in sight.

Speculation is mounting that the CFA plans to divide the 55-man squad into two and have one team play in the Chinese Super League and another in the second-tier China League One in an attempt to prepare a new generation of players to support China's bid to quality for Qatar 2022.

However, most of those inside Chinese football agree this would be counter productive and ruin the leagues concerned.

No decision has been made yet and the CFA are said to be exploring other options, with the teams playing in an East European league thought to be a favoured option. WS

➤ season as results did not improve after his assistant, Lee Byung-keun, took temporary charge.

TURKEY: Barcelona's Arda Turan, who is on loan at Istanbul Basaksehir, is charged over an alleged fight outside a nightclub that reportedly left popular singer Berkay with a broken nose.

VIETNAM: Becamex Binh Duong claim a place in the 2019 AFC Cup by beating FLC Thanh Hoa 3-1 in the Vietnamese Cup Final.

Tuesday October 16

BRAZIL: Miranda heads an injury-time winner as Brazil beat Argentina 1-0 to win a four-team friendly tournament in Saudi Arabia.

MADAGASCAR: A 1-0 victory at home to Equatorial Guinea sends Madagascar to their first African Nations Cup finals. Egypt, Senegal and Tunisia also confirm their places at next year's tournament.

SCOTLAND: Neil McCann leaves his role as Dundee manager with the side bottom of the Premiership after seven defeats in eight games.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE: Germany's 2-1 loss in France means they can't reach the finals, while wins for Ukraine and Georgia ensures promotion to Leagues A and C respectively.

Wednesday October 17

BRAZIL: Cruzeiro beat Corinthians 2-1 away from home to retain the Brazilian Cup 3-1 on aggregate and qualify for the group stage of next year's Libertadores Cup.

ENGLAND: Fulham owner Shahid Khan withdraws his £600m offer to buy Wembley Stadium from the Football Association.

SLOVENIA: Tomaz Kavcic is fired as coach with Slovenia bottom of League C Group 3 in the UEFA Nations League standings.

Thursday October 18

RUSSIA: Rubin Kazan will be banned from the Champions League and Europa League if they qualify for either in the next two seasons as punishment for a breach of UEFA's financial fairplay rules.

Friday October 19

GERMANY: At 20, Luka Jovic is the youngest player to score five goals in a Bundesliga game as Eintracht Frankfurt hammer Fortuna Dusseldorf 7-1.

Saturday October 20

AUSTRIA: Red Bull Salzburg drop their first points of the season but a 1-1 draw with Wacker Innsbruck ➤

➤ still make it 50 games unbeaten at home in all competitions.
FRANCE: Thierry Henry loses his opening game as Monaco coach, as a 2-1 defeat at Strasbourg drops his side to second from bottom. Paris Saint-Germain make it 10 wins from 10 in Ligue 1 as they thrash Amiens 5-0.
GERMANY: Bayern Munich have Arjen Robben sent off but end a four-game winless run with a 3-1 win at Wolfsburg. Borussia Dortmund stay top with a 4-0 victory at Stuttgart.
ITALY: Cristiano Ronaldo becomes the first player to score 400 goals across Europe top five leagues – but it is not enough to maintain Juventus' winning start as they draw 1-1 away to Genoa.
SPAIN: Marcelo ends the club's longest-ever scoring drought with a goal after 482 minutes, but Real Madrid still lose for a third successive game, going down 2-1 at home to Levante. Lionel Messi will miss *El Clasico* after being ruled out for three weeks with a fractured arm as Barcelona beat Sevilla 4-2 to go top of La Liga.
TUNISIA: Faouzi Benzarti is sacked as coach four days after qualifying for next year's African Nations Cup.

Sunday October 21

AUSTRALIA: Central Coast Mariners start the new A-League season by drawing 1-1 at Brisbane Roar and offering a playing contract to Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt.
GERMANY: Jonas Hofmann grabs the first hat-trick of his career as Borussia Monchengladbach beat Mainz 4-0 to go second.
ITALY: Mauro Icardi gets a dramatic injury-time winner as Internazionale beat Milan 1-0 in the 222nd derby.
USA: Atlanta United beat Chicago Fire 2-1 to qualify for next year's CONCACAF Champions League. Wayne Rooney scores twice as DC United secured a place in the MLS play-offs with a 3-1 win over New York City. Portland Timbers secure their spot with a 3-0 victory over Real Salt Lake.

Monday October 22

ENGLAND: Part of the Chelsea coaching staff, Marco Ianni is charged by the FA after his celebration of a 96th-minute equaliser in front of the Manchester United bench in a 2-2 draw on Saturday sparked a melee which led to security having to intervene.
ITALY: Gabriele Gravina is elected as the Italian Football Federation's new president, having been the ➤

South America

TIM VICKERY

Friendlies harder to come by

Argentina and Brazil follow the money

International football in South America follows a four-year cycle in which the 12 months after a World Cup become "the silly season", with no more competitive games until the Copa America next June – a tournament that many will treat as a warm-up for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

This season's FIFA dates are therefore strictly for friendlies – which are now harder to organise against European opposition due to the Nations League.

With both sides chasing the money, this helps to explain why Brazil and Argentina met in Saudi Arabia in October. However, the so-called "super-classic" showcased two sides in vastly different states.

After the shambles of the World Cup in Russia, Argentina are under the command of caretaker coach Lionel Scaloni. The official line is that they are taking their time to make the right definitive choice, but financial constraints are also likely to be a factor.

In spite of his lack of experience, Scaloni has not done a bad job. There is – at least for the time being – no Lionel Messi, and a choice has been made to renew and rejuvenate the squad. Despite little training time, Scaloni's side have at least looked competent, with a clear idea of play – which is something that could not be said for the team under predecessor Jorge Sampaoli. The stoppage-time goal that brought defeat against Brazil – glanced home by centre-back Miranda from a corner – was the first Argentina had conceded in four games.

Brazil, then, came away with victory, but there was much for coach Tite to mull over as next year's Copa is no mere warm-up for the *Selecao*. They are hosts, their recent tournament record has been poor and his job could well be on the line.

Brazil must win the Copa – which means that, while Tite has half an eye on long-term rebuilding, the main focus is on the here and now. Barcelona midfielder Arthur was the only member of the starting line-up in Saudi Arabia not to go to the World Cup, while only four of Scaloni's side were in Russia.

However, the fact that a full-strength Brazil attack did not really function is a cause for concern. Roberto Firmino was ineffective at centre-forward, where he seemed to have no relationship with Neymar; relocated to the right flank, Gabriel Jesus made little impression; and Phillippe Coutinho had a poor game in midfield.

The clear advantage of having Coutinho as part of the midfield trio is that it enables him to combine with Neymar. The evidence of the World Cup, though, was that Coutinho is not a genuine midfielder and that the left side is therefore vulnerable defensively.

Tite appears to have responded after the World Cup by calling for a more cautious approach from his full-backs in a bid to balance out the side. But the question left by the Argentina game is, does this takes away more than it gives? It will be fascinating to see how Tite

Winner...Brazil defender Miranda celebrates his goal against Argentina

> "We have to recover things that are part of our footballing identity"
> Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez

Struggling...Uruguay's Sebastian Coates fouls South Korea's Hwang Ui-Jo

Progress..Peru's Anderson Santamaria tackles Junior Fernanades of Chile

constructs his team in the next match: a meeting with Uruguay in London on November 16.

With contract negotiations complete, Oscar Tabarez slipped back in as Uruguay coach for their trip to the Far East. Ever since his reign began in 2006, Uruguay have skilfully used the silly season to introduce and consolidate new players, usually graduates of the highly successful under-20 set-up. Results are secondary, though Tabarez was not pleased to lose 2-1 to South Korea and 4-3 to Japan.

"We have to recover things that are part of our footballing identity," says Tabarez, "especially in terms of our defensive play."

The problem was clear. In the absence of Jose Maria Gimenez, Sebastian Coates came in to partner Diego Godin at centre-back and as a pair they are too slow, which prevents the team from pressing effectively. But there is more to celebrate than lament for Uruguay as the Tabarez project moves smoothly on for what will surely be its final four years.

Peru are also making progress. Paolo Guerrero has now succumbed to his drug ban, but otherwise coach Ricardo Gareca is entitled to believe that his young side can still improve. They tested themselves in Europe in September, taking the lead before going down 2-1 to Holland and Germany, and beating neighbours Chile 3-0 in Miami in October.

That was the second defeat, and the first bad result, in the eight games Chile have played this year under Reinaldo Rueda, who has the hard task of replacing the country's golden generation. His side are much more orthodox than the Bielsa/Sampaoli teams and have looked organised. But it is hard to see where the outstanding talent will come from. Chile bounced back from the Peru loss with a 1-0 win away to Mexico – the first time since March that Alexis Sanchez and Arturo Vidal had been in harness.

Elsewhere, Colombia have accumulated three wins and a draw under a caretaker coach, Arturo Reyes, while Ecuador have reappointed a Colombia, Hernan Dario Gomez, who is open about the fact that he will not seriously start to build a side until next year.

Ecuador were another team who headed to Asia – losing 4-3 to Qatar and drawing 0-0 with Oman – and Bolivia were also there, beating Myanmar 3-0 and going down 2-1 to Iran.

Venezuela, meanwhile, beat the United Arab Emirates 2-0 in Barcelona. Coach Rafael Dudamel took the side to the Final of last year's Under-20 World Cup and has faith that many of that generation will get the team through to Qatar 2022. WS

➤ only candidate to replace Carlo Tavecchio. Silvio Berlusconi, who recently bought Monza, appoints former Milan boss Cristian Brocchi as the Serie C side's new coach.

RUSSIA: Spartak Moscow sack coach Massimo Carrera.

SLOVAKIA: Czech coach Pavel Hapal agrees to take charge of Slovakia's national team.

Tuesday October 23

BRAZIL: Michel gives Gremio a 1-0 win away to Argentina's River Plate in their Libertadores Cup semi-final first-leg clash.

CAF CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Despite losing 2-1 to ES Setif in Algeria, Al Ahly of Egypt win 3-2 on aggregate to reach the Final, where they will meet Esperance of Tunisia, who beat Angola's Primeiro de Agosto 4-3.

GERMANY: Second-tier Hamburg replace Christian Titz with former Stuttgart coach Hannes Wolf after a run of one win in five games.

IRAN: Persepolis draw 1-1 at home to Qatar's Al Sadd to qualify for their first AFC Champions League Final with a 2-1 aggregate victory.

ITALY: CSKA Moscow fans on their way to their side's 3-0 Champions League loss at Roma are among the injured as an escalator collapses at a metro station in Rome. Juventus make it three wins out of three in the group stage with a 1-0 victory at Manchester United.

SCOTLAND: Top beats bottom as Hearts win 3-0 away at Dundee to move six points clear of second-place Celtic.

Wednesday October 24

ARGENTINA: Dario Benedetto gets both goals as Boca Juniors beat Palmeiras 2-0 in the first leg of their Libertadores Cup semi-final.

CAF CONFEDERATION CUP: Al Masry of Egypt stage a temporary second-half walk-off as they lose 4-0 to Vita Club of DR Congo, who will now face Raja of Morocco in the Final.

HOLLAND: Feyenoord's Robin Van Persie, who scored 50 goals in 102 appearances for his country, says he will retire at the of the season.

JAPAN: Trailing 3-1 after an hour, Kashima Antlers come back to draw 3-3 with Suwon Bluewings in South Korea and win 6-5 on aggregate to go through to the AFC Champions League Final for the first time.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE: Borussia Dortmund and Barcelona maintain their 100 per cent records, beating Atletico Madrid 4-0 and Internazionale 2-0 respectively. WS

Internationals

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE

Remaining group-stage fixtures are listed under the respective tables

League A

Group A1

Oct13 - Amsterdam
Holland 3 (Van Dijk 30, Depay 87, Wijnaldum 90+3)
Germany 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 52,536. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Holland: Cillessen - Dumfries, De Ligt, Van Dijk, Blind, De Roon, F De Jong (Ake 77), Wijnaldum, Bergwijn (Promes 68), Depay, Babel (Groeneveld 68).
Germany: Neuer - Ginter, Boateng, Hummels, Hector, Can (Draxler 57), Kimmich, Kroos, Muller (Sane 57), Uth (Brandt 68), Werner.

Oct16 - Paris
France 2 (Griezmann 62, pen 80)
Germany 1 (Kroos pen 14)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 75,000. **Ref:** Mazic (Ser)
France: Lloris - Pavard, Varane, Kimpembe, Hernandez, Kante (Nzonzi 90+4), Pogba, Mbappe (Dembele 86), Griezmann (Ndombele 90+1), Matuidi, Giroud.
Germany: Neuer - Ginter (Brandt 83), Sule, Hummels, Kehrer, Kimmich, Kroos, Schulz, Werner, Sane (Draxler 75), Gnabry (Muller 88).

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
Holland	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Germany	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Nov 16: Holland v France.
Nov 19: Germany v Holland.

Group A2

Oct12 - Brussels
Belgium 2 (R Lukaku 58, 84)
Switzerland 1 (Gavranovic 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 39,049. **Ref:** Mateu Lahoz (Spa)
Belgium: Courtois - Alderweireld, Kompany, Vermaelen (Boyata 73), Meunier, Tielemans, Witsel, Carrasco (Chadli 76), Mertens (T Hazard 90+2), E Hazard, R Lukaku.
Switzerland: Sommer - Elvedi, Schar, Rodriguez, Lang, Zakaria (Fernandes 83), Xhaka, Freuler (Fassnacht 87), Zuber, Shaqiri, Seferovic (Gavranovic 69).

Oct15 - Reykjavik
Iceland 1 (Finnbogason 81)
Switzerland 2 (Seferovic 52, Lang 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,663. **Ref:** Ekberg (Swe)
Iceland: Halldorsson - Eyjolfsson, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, Magnusson, J Gudmundsson, Sigurjonsson (A Gudmundsson 84), B Bjarnason, Traustason (Gislason 68), G Sigurdsson, Finnbogason.
Switzerland: Mvogo - Lang, Schar, Elvedi, Moubandje, Zakaria, Xhaka, Seferovic (Ajeti 90+1), Shaqiri, Zuber (Fassnacht 88), Gavranovic (Fernandes 69).

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Switzerland	3	2	0	1	9	3	6
Iceland (R)	3	0	0	3	1	11	0

Nov 15: Belgium v Iceland.
Nov 18: Switzerland v Belgium.

Group A3

Oct11 - Chorzow
Poland 2 (Piatek 18, Blaszczykowski 77)
Portugal 3 (Andre Silva 31, Glik og 43, Bernardo Silva 52)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 48,783. **Ref:** Del Cerro (Spa)
Poland: Fabianski - Bereszynski (Kedziora 46), Glik, Bednarek, Jedrzejczyk, Klich (Blaszczykowski 63), Krychowiak, Kurzawa (Grosicki 64), Zielinski, Piatek, Lewandowski.
Portugal: Rui Patricio - Joao Cancelo, Pepe, Ruben Dias, Mario Rui, Pizzi (Renato Sanches 74), Ruben Neves, William Carvalho, Rafa Silva (Danilo Pereira 84), Andre Silva, Bernardo Silva (Bruno Fernandes 90).

Oct14 - Chorzow
Poland 0
Italy 1 (Biraghi 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 41,692. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Poland: Szczesny - Bereszynski, Glik, Bednarek, Reca (Jedrzejczyk 87), Szymanski (Grosicki 46), Goralski, Linetty (Blaszczykowski 46), Zielinski, Lewandowski, Milik.
Italy: Donnarumma - Florenzi (Piccini 84), Bonucci, Chiellini, Biraghi, Verratti, Jorginho, Barella, Bernardeschi (Lasagna 81), Insigne, Chiesa.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Italy	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
Poland (R)	3	0	1	2	3	5	1

Nov 17: Italy v Portugal.
Nov 20: Portugal v Poland.

Group A4

Oct12 - Rijeka
Croatia 0
England 0
Played behind closed doors. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Croatia: Livakovic - Jedvaj, Lovren, Vida, Pivaric, Modric, Kovacic (Badelj 73), Rakitic, Kramaric, Rebic (Livaja 80), Perisic (Pjaca 68).
England: Pickford - Walker, Stones, Maguire, Chilwell, Henderson, Dier, Barkley, Sterling (Sancho 78), Kane, Rashford.

Oct15 - Seville
Spain 2 (Paco Alcacer 58, Sergio Ramos 90+8)
England 3 (Sterling 16, 38, Rashford 30)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 50,355. **Ref:** Marciniak (Pol)
Spain: De Gea - Jonny, Nacho, Sergio Ramos, Marcos Alonso, Thiago, Busquets, Saul (Paco Alcacer 57), Iago Aspas (Dani Ceballos 57), Rodrigo (Morata 72), Marco Asensio.
England: Pickford - Trippier (Alexander-Arnold 85), Gomez, Maguire, Chilwell, Winks (Chalobah 90), Dier, Barkley (Walker 75), Sterling, Kane, Rashford.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	0	1	10	4	6
England	3	1	1	1	4	4	4
Croatia	2	0	1	1	0	6	1

Nov 15: Croatia v Spain.
Nov 18: England v Croatia.

● *The 4 group winners qualify for the Nations League finals*
● *The country placed bottom in each group will be relegated to League B for the 2020 Nations League tournament*
● *The 4 countries with the best record in the League A group stage that have not already qualified for the 2020 European Championship finals (the qualifiers for which begin in March 2019) will go into play-offs, to be played in March 2020, to try to win the one Euro 2020 finals place on offer via the League A play-offs route*

League B

Group B1

Oct13 - Trnava
Slovakia 1 (Hamsik 62)
Czech Republic 2 (Krmencik 52, Schick 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,251. **Ref:** Vincic (Sln)
Slovakia: Dubravka - Pekarik (Sabo 46), Skriniar, Skrtel, Hubocan (Hancko 80), Lobotka, Hamsik, Kucka (Weiss 54), Duda, Mak, Nemec.
Czech Republic: Vaclik - Kaderabek (Novak 63), Celustka, Brabec, Gebre Selassie, Soucek, Pavelka, Vydra (Jankto 89), Dockal, Zmrhal, Krmencik (Schick 73).

Oct16 - Kharkiv
Ukraine 1 (Malinovskyi 43)
Czech Republic 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,100. **Ref:** Mazeika (Lit)
Ukraine: Pyatov - Karavaev, Burda, Rakitskyi, Matviyenko, Stepanenko, Yarmolenko, Marlos, Malinovskyi (Zinchenko 86), Konoplyanka (Tsygankov 70), Yaremchuk.
Czech Republic: Pavlenka - Gebre Selassie, Celustka, Brabec, Novak, Vydra (Zmrhal 67), Pavelka, Barak, Jankto (Sural 80), Dockal, Schick (Krmencik 73).

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ukraine (P)	3	3	0	0	4	1	9
Czech Rep	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
Slovakia	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

Nov 16: Slovakia v Ukraine.
Nov 19: Czech Republic v Slovakia.

Group B2

Oct11 - Kaliningrad
Russia 0
Sweden 0
Att: 31,698. **Ref:** Banti (Ita)
Russia: Guilherme - Fernandes, Neustadter, Dzhikiya, Rausch, Gazinsky, Zobnin, Ionov (Kuzyaev 76), Golovin, Cheryshev (Zabolotniy 87), Dzyuba.
Sweden: Olsen - Lustig, Lindelof, Granqvist, Augustinsson, Claesson, Sebastian Larsson, Svensson, Forsberg, Kiese Thelin (Guidetti 71), Berg (Andersson 82).

Oct14 - Sochi
Russia 2 (Neustadter 20, Cheryshev 78)
Turkey 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,288. **Ref:** Raczkowski (Pol)
Russia: Guilherme - Fernandes, Neustadter, Dzhikiya, Kudryashov, Gazinsky, Zobnin, Ionov (Kambolov 82), Kuzyaev (Cheryshev 71), Golovin (Poloz 90+1), Dzyuba.
Turkey: Bolat - Mehmet Celik, Serdar Aziz, Caglar, Kaldirim (Bayram 75), Mahmut (Ozcan 62), Okay, Cengiz, Ozyakup (Malli 84), Calhanoglu, Tosun.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	3	2	1	0	4	1	7
Turkey	3	1	0	2	4	6	3
Sweden	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Nov 17: Turkey v Sweden.
Nov 20: Sweden v Russia.

Group B3

Oct12 - Vienna
Austria 1 (Arnautovic 71)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 22,300. **Ref:** Kabakov (Bul)
Austria: Lindner - Lainer, Prodl, Hinteregger, Ulmer, Lazaro (Dragovic 90), Ilsanker, Zulj, Sabitzer (Schopf 75), Burgstaller (Kainz 82), Arnautovic.
Northern Ireland: Peacock-Farrell - McNair, Cathcart, J Evans, Lewis, Davis, Norwood, Saville (Vassell 76), Dallas, Magennis (Grigg 79), Ferguson (C Evans 55).

Oct15 - Sarajevo
Bosnia-Herzegovina 2 (Dzeko 27, 73)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 11,050. **Ref:** Gestranius (Fin)
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Sehic - Vranjes, Sunjic, Zukanovic, Civic, Besic (Cimirot 90), Pjanic, Saric, Visca (Milosevic 88), Dzeko, Duljevic (Zakaric 75).
Northern Ireland: Peacock-Farrell - McNair (Vassell 71), Cathcart, J Evans, Lewis, Norwood (Whyte 58), C Evans, Davis, Saville, Dallas, Boyce (Magennis 80).

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bosnia-Herz	3	3	0	0	5	1	9
Austria	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Nthn Ireland	3	0	0	3	1	5	0

Nov 15: Austria v Bosnia-Herzegovina.
Nov 18: Northern Ireland v Austria.

Group B4

Oct13 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 0
Denmark 0
Att: 41,220. **Ref:** Estrada Fernandez (Spa)
Republic of Ireland: Randolph - Keogh, Duffy, K Long, Doherty, Christie, O'Dowda (Stevens 46), Arter (Robinson 65), McClean, Hendrick, S Long (O'Brien 83).
Denmark: Schmeichel - Dalsgaard, Kjaer, M Jorgensen, J Larsen, Schone, Delaney, Poulsen, Braithwaite, Sisto, Dolberg (Christensen 79).

Oct16 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 0
Wales 1 (Wilson 58)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 38,321. **Ref:** Kuipers (Hol)
Republic of Ireland: Randolph - Keogh, Duffy, K Long (Hogan 75), Doherty, Christie, Arter, Hendrick, McClean, O'Brien (S Long 56), Robinson (Maguire 60).
Wales: Hennessey - C Roberts, Chester, Williams, B Davies, Brooks (King 87), Allen, Smith (Thomas 75), Lawrence, Wilson (Gunter 85), T Roberts.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
Denmark	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Rep of Ireland	3	0	1	2	1	5	1

Nov 16: Wales v Denmark.
Nov 19: Denmark v Republic of Ireland.

● *The 4 group winners will be promoted to League A for the 2020 Nations League tournament*
● *The country placed bottom in each group will be relegated to League C for the 2020 Nations League tournament*
● *The 4 countries with the best record in the League B group stage that have not already qualified for the 2020 European Championship finals (the qualifiers for which begin in March 2019) will go into play-offs, to be played in March 2020, to try to win the one Euro 2020 finals place on offer via the League B play-offs route*

League C

Group C1

Oct11 - Haifa
Israel 2 (Peretz 52, Tierney og 75)
Scotland 1 (Mulgrew pen 25)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,234. **Ref:** Stefanski (Pol)
Israel: Harush - Yeini, Tibi, Ben Harush, Dasa, Peretz, Natcho, Kayal (Einbinder 82), Tawatha (Atar 76), Dabbur, Sahar (Saba 46).
Scotland: A McGregor - Souttar, Mulgrew (McKenna 46), Tierney, O'Donnell, McGinn, McDonald, Robertson, Russell (Forrest 67), C McGregor, Naismith (McBurnie 76).
Sent off: Souttar 61.

Oct14 - Beer Sheva
Israel 2 (Hemed 8, Saba 83)
Albania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,950. **Ref:** Mazzoleni (Ita)
Israel: Harush - Yeini, Tibi (Tzedek 46), Ben Harush, Natcho, Dasa, Peretz, Kayal, Tawatha (Habashi 77), Hemed (Saba 66), Dabbur.
Albania: Strakosha - Hysaj, Gjimshiti, Mavraj, Binaku, Xhaka, Basha (Lilaj 46), Memushaj, Uzuni, Balaj (Vrioni 73), Grezda.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	2	0	1	4	2	6
Scotland	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Albania	3	1	0	2	1	4	3

Nov 17: Albania v Scotland.
Nov 20: Scotland v Israel.

Group C2

Oct12 - Tallinn
Estonia 0
Finland 1 (Pukki 90+1)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,087. **Ref:** Pawson (Eng)
Estonia: Aksalu - Teniste, Baranov, Dmitrijev, Tamm, Kallaste, Zenjov (Luts 60), Vassiljev (Kaljumae 88), Puri, Ojamaa, Sappinen (Purje 71).
Finland: Hradecky - Raitala, Toivio, Arajuuri, Uronen, Lod, Sparv, Schuller (Kamara 72), Soiri (Forsell 61), Tuominen (Markkanen 88), Pukki.

Oct12 - Athens
Greece 1 (Mitroglou 65)
Hungary 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,040. **Ref:** Stieler (Ger)
Greece: Barkas - Bakakis, Manolas, Papastathopoulos, Tsimikas, Zeca, Kourbelis (Tziolis 46), Pelkas (Christodoulopoulos 85), Fortounis, Bakasetas, Mitroglou (Bouchalakis 90+4).
Hungary: Gulacsi - Bese (Nemeth 75), Orban, Kadar, Fiola, Kleinheisler, A Nagy, Kalmar (Kovacs 55), Varga (D Nagy 68), Szalai, Sallai.

Oct15 - Tallinn
Estonia 3 (Luts 20, Patkai og 70, Anier 79)
Hungary 3 (D Nagy 24, Szalai 54, 81)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,043. **Ref:** Ozkahya (Tur)
Estonia: Aksalu (Lepmets 43) - Teniste, Baranov, Tamm, Pikk, Mets, Luts, Antonov, Vassiljev, Ojamaa, Anier (Purje 90).
Hungary: Gulacsi - Orban, Kadar, Barath, Kovacs, Lovrencsics (Bese 79), D Nagy (Eppel 75), Kleinheisler (Patkai 68), A Nagy, Sallai, Szalai.

Oct15 - Tampere
Finland 2 (Soiri 46, Kamara 89)
Greece 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,107. **Ref:** Gil (Pol)
Finland: Hradecky - Raitala, Toivio, Arajuuri, Uronen, Lod, Kamara, Sparv, Soiri (Pirinen 86), Tuominen (Karjalainen 90+1), Pukki (Skrabb 12).
Greece: Barkas - Bakakis, Manolas, Papastathopoulos (Tzavellas 46), Tsimikas, Zeca, Tziolis, Bakasetas (Christodoulopoulos 55), Fortounis, Pelkas (Koulouris 73), Mitroglou.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Finland	4	4	0	0	5	0	12
Greece	4	2	0	2	3	4	6
Hungary	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
Estonia	4	0	1	3	3	6	1

Nov 15: Greece v Finland; Hungary v Estonia.
Nov 18: Greece v Estonia; Hungary v Finland.

Group C3

Oct13 - Sofia
Bulgaria 2 (Despodov 59, Nedelev 68)
Cyprus 1 (Kastanos 41)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Jovanovic (Ser)
Bulgaria: Iliev - S Popov, Bodurov, Nedyalkov, Zanev, Nedelev, Slavchev, Kostadinov, Despodov (Bozhikov 74), I Popov (Vasilev 84), Kraev (Milanov 57).
Cyprus: Panayi - Demetriou, Merkis, Laifis, Ioannou (Christofi 72), Artymatas, Kousoulos, Papoulis (Roushias 75), Kastanos (Margaca 65), Avraam, Sotiriou.

Oct13 - Oslo
Norway 1 (Selnaes 45+5)
Slovenia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,712. **Ref:** Siebert (Ger)
Norway: Jarstein - Elabdellaoui, Hovland, Rosted, Aleesami, S Johansen (Fossum 80), Selnaes, Henriksen, T Elyounoussi (Johnsen 75), King, M Elyounoussi (Linnes 90+3).
Slovenia: Belec - Skubic, Mevlja, Krajnc (Mitrovic 9), Jokic, Crnigoj (Ilicic 61), Stulac (Bijol 46), Krhin, Bezjak, Zajc, Sporar.

Oct16 - Oslo
Norway 1 (M Elyounoussi 31)
Bulgaria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 9,523. **Ref:** Beaton (Sco)
Norway: Jarstein - Elabdellaoui, Nordtveit, Rosted, Aleesami, S Johansen (Fossum 78), Henriksen, Selnaes, M Elyounoussi, King, T Elyounoussi.
Bulgaria: Iliev - Chorbadzhiyski (Vasilev 49), Bodurov, Bozhikov, Bandalovski, Kostadinov (Kraev 78), Slavchev (Malinov 58), Zanev, Nedelev, Despodov, I Popov.

Oct16 - Ljubljana
Slovenia 1 (Skubic 83)
Cyprus 1 (Papoulis 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,318. **Ref:** Kristoffersen (Den)
Slovenia: Belec - Skubic, Mevlja, Mitrovic, Jokic (Balkovec 58), Zajc, Krhin (Zahovic 75), Crnigoj, Ilicic, Bezjak (Dervisevic 46), Beric. *Sent off: Ilicic 90.*
Cyprus: Panayi - Demetriou, Merkis, Sielis, Vasiliou (Ioannou 90+5), Margaca (Christofi 87), Artymatas, Kastanos, Kousoulos, Papoulis (Avraam 73), Sotiriou. *Sent off: Kastanos 66, Demetriou 90+6.*

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	4	3	0	1	4	1	9
Bulgaria	4	3	0	1	5	3	9
Cyprus	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Slovenia	4	0	1	3	3	6	1

Nov 16: Cyprus v Bulgaria; Slovenia v Norway.
Nov 19: Bulgaria v Slovenia; Cyprus v Norway.

Group C4

Oct11 - Vilnius
Lithuania 1 (Zulpa 90)
Romania 2 (Chipciu 13, Maxim 90+4)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,279. **Ref:** Letexier (Fra)
Lithuania: Setkus - Baravykas, Zulpa, Jankauskas, Klimavicius, Slavickas, Novikovas, Vorobjovas (Kuklys 63), Slivka, Cernych (Petravicius 87), Sernas (Valskis 63).
Romania: Tatarusanu - Manea, Tamas, Sapunaru, Bancu, Anton, Marin, Chipciu, Stanciu (Rotariu 87), Mitrita (Maxim 78), Tucudean (Keseru 71).

Oct11 - Podgorica
Montenegro 0
Serbia 2 (Mitrovic pen 18, 81)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,700. **Ref:** Rocchi (Ita)
Montenegro: Petkovic - Stojkovic (Jankovic 46), Simic, Tomasevic, Vesovic, Scekic (Ivanic 73), Vukcevic, Marusic, Jovetic, Jovovic, Beciraj (Mugosa 80).
Serbia: Dmitrovic - Rukavina, Milenkovic, Veljkovic, Rodic, Maksimovic, Lukic (Jovicic 72), Zivkovic, Tadic, Gacinovic (Milinkovic-Savic 79), Mitrovic (Radonjic 90+3).

Oct14 - Vilnius
Lithuania 1 (Baravykas 88)
Montenegro 4 (Mugosa 10, pen 45+1, Kopitovic 35, Zoric 86)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 1,515. **Ref:** Schorgenhofer (Aut)
Lithuania: Setkus - Baravykas, Janusevskis, Klimavicius, Borovskij, Zulpa, Novikovas, Vorobjovas (Kuklys 46), Slivka, Cernych (Petravicius 49), Valskis (Kazlauskas 79).
Montenegro: Petkovic - Stojkovic (Radunovic 87), Kopitovic, Simic, Tomasevic, Kosovic, Scekic, Vesovic (Zoric 56), Ivanic, Jovovic (Beciraj 72), Mugosa.

Oct14 - Bucharest
Romania 0
Serbia 0
Att: 48,513. **Ref:** Blom (Hol)
Romania: Tatarusanu - Manea, Tamas, Sapunaru, Tosca, Marin, Baluta, Stanciu, Maxim (Rotariu 70), Dragus (Nedelcearu 45+3), Tucudean (Keseru 80). *Sent off: Tamas 44.*
Serbia: Rajkovic - Rukavina, Milenkovic, Veljkovic, Rodic (Miletic 77), Maksimovic, Lukic, Gacinovic (Milinkovic-Savic 63), Tadic, Radonjic, Mitrovic.

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Serbia	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
Montenegro	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Romania	4	1	3	0	4	3	6
Lithuania	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

Nov 17: Romania v Lithuania; Serbia v Montenegro.
Nov 20: Montenegro v Romania; Serbia v Lithuania.

● *The 4 group winners will be promoted to League B for the 2020 Nations League tournament*
● *The country placed bottom in groups C2, C3 & C4, plus the lowest-ranked 3rd-placed team from groups C1, C2, C3 & C4 (based on their group-stage performance) will be relegated to League D for the 2020 Nations League tournament*
● *The 4 countries with the best record in the League C group stage that have not already qualified for the 2020 European Championship finals (the qualifiers for which begin in March 2019) will go into play-offs, to be played in March 2020, to try to win the one Euro 2020 finals place on offer via the League C play-offs route*

League D

Group D1

Oct13 - Tbilisi
Georgia 3 (Kazaishvili 33, 84, Kankava 90+4)
Andorra 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,214. **Ref:** Trattou (Cyp)
Sent off: Vieira (Andorra) 90+2

Oct13 - Riga
Latvia 1 (Karasausks 40)
Kazakhstan 1 (Zainutdinov 16)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 4,878. **Ref:** Lechner (Aut)

Oct16 - Astana
Kazakhstan 4 (Seidakhmet 21, Turysbek 39, Gomes og 61, Murtazayev 74)
Andorra 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 19,854. **Ref:** Boiko (Ukr)
Sent off: Alaez (Andorra) 64

Oct16 - Riga
Latvia 0
Georgia 3 (Kankava 8, Gvilia 29, Chakvetadze 61)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 3,185. **Ref:** Ardeleanu (CzR)

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Georgia (P)	4	4	0	0	9	0	12
Kazakhstan	4	1	2	1	6	4	5
Latvia	4	0	2	2	1	5	2
Andorra	4	0	2	2	1	8	2

Nov 15: Andorra v Georgia; Kazakhstan v Latvia.
Nov 19: Andorra v Latvia; Georgia v Kazakhstan.

Group D2

Oct12 - Minsk
Belarus 1 (Saroka 43)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,122. **Ref:** Palabiyik (Tur)

Oct12 - Chisinau
Moldova 2 (Ginsari 31, 67)
San Marino 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 5,242. **Ref:** Markham-Jones (Wal)

Oct15 - Minsk
Belarus 0
Moldova 0
Att: 10,870. **Ref:** Clancy (Sco)

Oct15 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 3 (Turpel 4, Sinani 65, V Thill 73)
San Marino 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 2,876. **Ref:** Golubevs (Lat)
Sent off: Gasperoni (San Marino) 54

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Luxembourg	4	3	0	1	10	1	9
Belarus	4	2	2	0	6	0	8
Moldova	4	1	2	1	2	4	5
San Marino	4	0	0	4	0	13	0

Nov 15: Luxembourg v Belarus; San Marino v Moldova.
Nov 18: Moldova v Luxembourg; San Marino v Belarus.

Group D3

Oct11 - Torshavn
Faroe Islands 0
Azerbaijan 3 (Richard Almeida 28, pen 86, Nazarov 67)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,820. **Ref:** Eskov (Rus)

Oct11 - Pristina
Kosovo 3 (Kololli 30, 81, Muriqi 68)
Malta 1 (Agius 51)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 12,365. **Ref:** Bognar (Hun)
Sent off: Mifsud (Malta) 70

Oct14 - Baku
Azerbaijan 1 (Abdullayev 53)
Malta 1 (Muscat 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 16,200. **Ref:** Bebek (Cro)

Oct14 - Torshavn
Faroe Islands 1 (R Joensen 50)
Kosovo 1 (Rashica 9)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,300. **Ref:** Zelinka (CzR)

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kosovo	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
Azerbaijan	4	1	3	0	5	2	6
Faroe Islands	4	1	1	2	4	7	4
Malta	4	0	2	2	4	8	2

Nov 17: Azerbaijan v Faroe Islands; Malta v Kosovo.
Nov 20: Kosovo v Azerbaijan; Malta v Faroe Islands.

Group D4

Oct13 - Yerevan
Armenia 0
Gibraltar 1 (J Chipolina pen 50)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,986. **Ref:** San (Swi)

Oct13 - Skopje
Macedonia 4 (Trajkovski 10, 30, Pandev 36, Alioski 67)
Liechtenstein 1 (Yildiz 37)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 8,100. **Ref:** Reinshreiber (Isr)

Oct16 - Yerevan
Armenia 4 (Pizzelli 12, Movsisyan 67, Ghazaryan 81, Mkhitaryan 90+4)
Macedonia 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 14,986. **Ref:** Strombergsson (Swe)
Sent off: Elmas (Macedonia) 90+3

Oct16 - Gibraltar
Gibraltar 2 (Cabrera 61, J Chipolina 66)
Liechtenstein 1 (Salanovic 15)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Dimitriou (Cyp)

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Macedonia	4	3	0	1	8	5	9
Gibraltar	4	2	0	2	3	5	6
Armenia	4	2	0	2	6	4	6
Liechtenstein	4	1	0	3	5	8	3

Nov 16: Gibraltar v Armenia; Liechtenstein v Macedonia.
Nov 19: Liechtenstein v Armenia; Macedonia v Gibraltar.

● *The 4 group winners will be promoted to League C for the 2020 Nations League tournament*
● *The 4 countries with the best record in the League D group stage that have not already qualified for the 2020 European Championship finals (the qualifiers for which begin in March 2019) will go into play-offs, to be played in March 2020, to try to win the one Euro 2020 finals place on offer via the League D play-offs route*

2019 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS

Remaining fixtures are listed under the respective tables

Group A

Oct13 - Bata
Equatorial Guinea 0
Madagascar 1 (Andriatsima 18)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Abid Charef (Alg)

Oct13 - Dakar
Senegal 3 (Cisse 16, Gueye 18, Niang 50)
Sudan 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Tessema (Eth)

Oct16 - Antananarivo
Madagascar 1 (Rakotoharimalala 42)
Equatorial Guinea 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Keita (Mli)

Oct16 - Khartoum
Sudan 0
Senegal 1 (S Sarr 86)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ghorbal (Alg)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal (QF)	4	3	1	0	9	2	10
Madag'car (QF)	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Equat Guinea	4	1	0	3	1	5	3
Sudan	4	0	0	4	1	8	0

Nov 15-20: Equatorial Guinea v Senegal; Madagascar v Sudan.
Mar 18-26: Senegal v Madagascar; Sudan v Equatorial Guinea.

Group B

Oct12 - Yaounde
Cameroon 1 (Choupo-Moting 63)
Malawi 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Essrayri (Tun)

Oct13 - Casablanca
Morocco 1 (Fajr pen 90+4)
Comoros 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Lemghaifry (Mra)

Oct16 - Mitsamiouli
Comoros 2 (Ben Nabouhane 8, 90+2)
Morocco 2 (Boutaib 53, Amrabat 62)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Omweno (Ken)

Oct16 - Blantyre
Malawi 0
Cameroon 0
Ref: Gomes (SAf)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cameroon (QF)	4	2	2	0	3	1	8
Morocco	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Malawi	4	1	1	2	1	4	4
Comoros	4	0	2	2	3	5	2

Nov 15-20: Comoros v Malawi; Morocco v Cameroon.
Mar 18-26: Cameroon v Comoros; Malawi v Morocco.

Group C

Oct12 - Libreville
Gabon 3 (Bouanga 28, Appindangoye 59, Martin og 88)
South Sudan 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Mahamat (Chd)

Oct12 - Bamako
Mali 0
Burundi 0
Ref: N'Diaye (Sen)

Oct16 - Bujumbura
Burundi 1 (Abdul Razak 10)
Mali 1 (Fofana 48)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Alvacao (Moz)

Oct16 - Juba
South Sudan 0
Gabon 1 (Biyogo Poko 50)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Moussa (Nig)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mali	4	2	2	0	6	2	8
Gabon	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Burundi	4	1	3	0	5	2	6
South Sudan	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

Nov 15-20: Gabon v Mali; South Sudan v Burundi.
Mar 18-26: Burundi v Gabon; Mali v South Sudan.

Group D

Oct12 - Blida
Algeria 2 (Bensebaini 21, Bounedjah 73)
Benin 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Toure (Gui)

Oct12 - Lome
Togo 1 (Denkey 83)
Gambia 1 (Ceesay 7)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Effa (Cam)

Oct16 - Cotonou
Benin 1 (D'Almeida 16)
Algeria 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Pavaza (Nam)
Sent off: Sessegnon (Benin) 55

Oct16 - Bakau
Gambia 0
Togo 1 (Ayite 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Martins de Carvalho (Ang)
Sent off: Dakonam (Togo) 77

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Algeria	4	2	1	1	4	2	7
Benin	4	2	1	1	2	2	7
Togo	4	1	2	1	2	2	5
Gambia	4	0	2	2	2	4	2

Nov 15-20: Gambia v Benin; Togo v Algeria.
Mar 18-26: Algeria v Gambia; Benin v Togo.

Group E

Oct13 - Uyo
Nigeria 4 (Ighalo pen 4, 57, 68, Kalu 89)
Libya 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Ngambo (DRC)

Oct13 - Johannesburg
South Africa 6 (Hoareau og 23, Hlatshwayo 25, Mothiba 27, Tau 74, Ndlovu 81, Mokoena 90+2)
Seychelles 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Malong (SSu)

Oct16 - Sfax, Tunisia
Libya 2 (Zubya 35, Benali 74)
Nigeria 3 (Ighalo 14, 81, Musa 17)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Bondo (Bot)

Oct16 - Victoria
Seychelles 0
South Africa 0
Ref: Nassoro (Tan)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	4	3	0	1	10	4	9
South Africa	4	2	2	0	8	0	8
Libya	4	1	1	2	7	8	4
Seychelles	4	0	1	3	1	14	1

Nov 15-20: Seychelles v Libya; South Africa v Nigeria.
Mar 18-26: Libya v South Africa; Nigeria v Seychelles.

Group F

Oct10 - Bahir Dar
Ethiopia 0
Kenya 0
Ref: Gassama (Gam)

Oct14 - Kasarani
Kenya 3 (Olunga 23, Johanna 28, Wanyama pen 67)
Ethiopia 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Heeralall (Mrs)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kenya	4	2	1	1	5	2	7
Ethiopia	4	1	1	2	1	8	4
Ghana	2	1	0	1	5	1	3
Sierra Leone	2	1	0	1	2	2	3

tba: Ghana v Sierra Leone.
tba: Sierra Leone v Ghana.
Nov 15-20: Ethiopia v Ghana; Kenya v Sierra Leone.
Mar 18-26: Ghana v Kenya; Sierra Leone v Ethiopia.

Group G

Oct11 - Brazzaville
Congo 3 (Ndockyt 15, Ibara 62, Oniangue 89)
Liberia 1 (Johnson 46)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Shuaibu (Nga)

Oct13 - Kinshasa
DR Congo 1 (Bolasie 90+2)
Zimbabwe 2 (Pfumbidzai 21, Musona 69)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Jiyed (Mor)
Sent off: Musona (Zimbabwe) 74

Oct16 - Monrovia
Liberia 2 (Dennis 7, Jebor 14)
Congo 1 (Ibara 15)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Ngwa (Cam)

Oct16 - Harare
Zimbabwe 1 (Billiat 2)
DR Congo 1 (Hadebe og 24)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Grisha (Egy)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zimbabwe	4	2	2	0	7	3	8
DR Congo	4	1	2	1	6	5	5
Congo	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Liberia	4	1	1	2	4	8	4

Nov 15-20: Congo v DR Congo; Liberia v Zimbabwe.
Mar 18-26: DR Congo v Liberia; Zimbabwe v Congo.

Group H

Oct12 - Conakry
Guinea 2 (Kamano pen 37, Cisse 72)
Rwanda 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Chewe (Zam)

Oct12 - Bouake
Ivory Coast 4 (Kodjia 25, Bailly 52, Doukoure 57, Cornet 75)
Central African Republic 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Muhabi (Uga)

Oct16 - Bangui
Central African Republic 0
Ivory Coast 0
Ref: Sikazwe (Zam)

Oct16 - Kigali
Rwanda 1 (Tuyisenge 78)
Guinea 1 (Kante 32)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Camille (Sey)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	4	3	1	0	7	3	10
Ivory Coast	4	2	1	1	8	4	7
Cent Af Rep	4	1	1	2	2	6	4
Rwanda	4	0	1	3	3	7	1

Nov 15-20: Guinea v Ivory Coast; Rwanda v Central African Republic.
Mar 18-26: Central African Republic v Guinea; Ivory Coast v Rwanda.

Group I

Oct12 - Luanda
Angola 4 (Mateus pen 13, 16, Djalma 52, Gelson 80)
Mauritania 1 (El Hacen 3)
HT: 2-1. **Ref:** Nkurunziza (Bdi)

Oct13 - Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso 3 (Pitroipa 4, Diawara 48, Abdou Traore 60)
Botswana 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Sinko (IvC)

Oct16 - Francistown
Botswana 0
Burkina Faso 0
Ref: Waweru (Ken)

Oct16 - Nouakchott
Mauritania 1 (Ba 18)
Angola 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Selmi (Tun)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mauritania	4	3	0	1	5	4	9
Burkina Faso	4	2	1	1	6	3	7
Angola	4	2	0	2	6	5	6
Botswana	4	0	1	3	0	5	1

Nov 15-20: Angola v Burkina Faso; Mauritania v Botswana.
Mar 18-26: Botswana v Angola; Burkina Faso v Mauritania.

Group J

Oct12 - Cairo
Egypt 4 (Elmohamady 7, Warda 10, Trezeguet 30, Salah 45)
Eswatini (Swaziland) 1 (Gamedze 85)
HT: 4-0. **Ref:** Hakizimana (Rwa)

Oct13 - Rades
Tunisia 1 (Meriah 17)
Niger 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Otogo-Castane (Gab)
Sent off: Chaalali (Tunisia) 86

Oct16 - Manzini
Eswatini (Swaziland) 0
Egypt 2 (Hegazy 19, M Mohsen 53)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ismail (Sud)

Oct16 - Niamey
Niger 1 (Oumarou 36)
Tunisia 2 (Chaouat 27, 32)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** El Jaafari (Mor)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP J

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tunisia (QF)	4	4	0	0	6	1	12
Egypt (QF)	4	3	0	1	12	2	9
Eswatini	4	0	1	3	1	8	1
Niger	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

Nov 15-20: Egypt v Tunisia; Eswatini (Swaziland) v Niger.
Mar 18-26: Niger v Egypt; Tunisia v Eswatini (Swaziland).

Group K

Oct10 - Lusaka
Zambia 2 (Sunzu 15, Shonga 54)
Guinea-Bissau 1 (Mendy 80)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hagi (Som)

Oct13 - Maputo
Mozambique 1 (Mexer 25)
Namibia 2 (Shitembi 70, Hotto 90)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Martins de Carvalho (Ang)

Oct14 - Bissau
Guinea-Bissau 2 (Sunzu og 53, Toni Silva 61)
Zambia 1 (Shonga 11)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Ntale (Tog)

Oct16 - Windhoek
Namibia 1 (Shalulile 73)
Mozambique 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Ganamandji (CAR)
Sent off: Haoseb (Namibia) 87

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP K

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea-Bissau	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Namibia	4	2	1	1	4	3	7
Mozambique	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Zambia	4	1	1	2	4	5	4

Nov 15-20: Mozambique v Zambia; Namibia v Guinea-Bissau.
Mar 18-26: Guinea-Bissau v Mozambique; Zambia v Namibia.

Group L

Oct12 - Praia
Cape Verde Islands 3 (Gomes 16, 23, Stopira 85)
Tanzania 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Traore (Mli)

Oct13 - Kampala
Uganda 3 (Okwi 10, 64, Miya pen 36)
Lesotho 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Omar (Egy)

Oct16 - Maseru
Lesotho 0
Uganda 2 (Miya 6, 35)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Adelaid (Com)

Oct16 - Dar es Salaam
Tanzania 2 (Msuva 29, Samatta 58)
Cape Verde Islands 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Djama (Dji)

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP L

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uganda	4	3	1	0	6	0	10
Tanzania	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Cape Verde Is	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Lesotho	4	0	2	2	2	7	2

Nov 15-20: Lesotho v Tanzania; Uganda v Cape Verde Islands.
Mar 18-26: Cape Verde Islands v Lesotho; Tanzania v Uganda.

● *The top 2 in each group will qualify for the 24-team finals. Finals hosts Cameroon qualify automatically regardless of the fact that they are taking part in the qualifying tournament*

CONCACAF NATIONS LEAGUE QUALS

1st matchday

(postponed from September)
Oct16 - Fort-de-France
Martinique 4 (Parsemain 65, 90+1, Biron 83, 90+2)
British Virgin Islands 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Perez (Mex)
Sent off: Yordan Thimon (Martinique) 37

2nd matchday

Oct11 - Cayenne
French Guiana 0
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (Solomon pen 61)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Cornejo (ESv)

Oct12 - Nassau
Bahamas 0
Antigua & Barbuda 6 (Weston pen 12, pen 43, 77, Byers 15, Jahraldo-Martin 40, 68)
HT: 0-4. **Ref:** Castro (Hnd)

Oct12 - Hamilton
Bermuda 12 (Lambe pen 10, 17, 84, Simmons 13, Lewis 28, 40, 88, Ming 37, Bascome 43, Evans 54, Tyrell 62, Leverock 73)
Sint Maarten 0
HT: 7-0. **Ref:** Parchment (Jam)

Oct12 - Santiago de los Caballeros
Dominican Republic 3 (Bonnin 21, Rodriguez 25, Pena 76)
Cayman Islands 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Elie (Hai)

Oct12 - St George's
Grenada 0
Cuba 2 (Paradela 21, Santa Cruz 65)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Calderon Perez (CR)

Oct12 - Bradenton, USA
US Virgin Islands 0
Curacao 5 (Janga 29, Nepomuceno 33, Bacuna pen 53, Greene og 55, Martinus 89)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Springer (Bar)

Oct13 - San Salvador
El Salvador 3 (Bonilla 22, Baires 43, Mayen 90+3)
Barbados 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Johnson (Guy)

Oct13 - Bayamon
Puerto Rico 0
Martinique 1 (Parsemain 47)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rodriguez (Hnd)
Sent off: Delem (Martinique) 74

Oct13 - Paramaribo
Surinam 5 (Rijssel 23, 76, Elshot 43, Fer 66, Comvalius 82)
British Virgin Islands 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Lopez (Gtm)

Oct13 - Providenciales
Turks & Caicos Islands 0
Guyana 8 (Holder 7, 37, 45, Welshman 20, 69, pen 81, Bobb 45+2, Daniel 77)
HT: 0-5. **Ref:** Vergara (Pan)

Oct14 - Willemstad, Curacao
Bonaire 0
Jamaica 6 (Burke 14, Morris 43, 51, Gordon 48, Vassell 58, Kelly 81)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Moore (Guy)
Sent off: Hector (Jamaica) 90

Oct14 - Lookout
Montserrat 1 (Weir-Daley 74)
Belize 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Rangel (Mex)

Oct14 - Heredia, Costa Rica
Nicaragua 6 (Moreno 1, 39, Lopez 4, Barrera 22, 28, 42)
Anguilla 0
HT: 6-0. **Ref:** Martinez (ESv)

Oct14 - The Valley, Anguilla
Saint-Martin 0
St Kitts & Nevis 10 (Harris 6, 14, 64, Noubou og 16, Panayiotou 26, 81, Wharton 30, 90+1, Sterling-James 38, Rogers 77)
HT: 0-6. **Ref:** Anderson (PR)

Oct16 - Toronto
Canada 5 (David 3, Hoilett 14, Cavallini pen 18, M Joseph og 47, Larin 82)
Dominica 0
HT: 3-0. **Ref:** Macias (Mex)

Oct16 - Les Abymes
Guadeloupe 0
Aruba 0
Ref: Saghafi (USA)

Oct16 - Fort-de-France, Martinique
St Lucia 1 (Williams 43)
Haiti 2 (Mustivar 13, Herold 34)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Richards (SKN)

CONCACAF NATIONS LEAGUE QUALIFIERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Curacao	2	2	0	0	15	0	6
Haiti	2	2	0	0	15	1	6
Canada	2	2	0	0	13	0	6
Cuba	2	2	0	0	13	0	6
St Kitts & Nevis	2	2	0	0	11	0	6
Jamaica	2	2	0	0	10	0	6
Dominican Rep	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
Nicaragua	2	2	0	0	8	0	6
Martinique	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
El Salvador	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Guyana	2	1	1	0	10	2	4
Surinam	2	1	1	0	5	0	4
Guadeloupe	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Aruba	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Bermuda	2	1	0	1	13	3	3
French Guiana	2	1	0	1	5	1	3
Antigua & B'da	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Belize	2	1	0	1	4	1	3
St Lucia	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Montserrat	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
St Vincent & G	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Barbados	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Dominica	2	0	1	1	0	5	1
Puerto Rico	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Cayman Is	2	0	0	2	0	7	0
British Virgin Is	2	0	0	2	0	9	0
Bahamas	2	0	0	2	0	10	0
Anguilla	2	0	0	2	0	11	0
Bonaire	2	0	0	2	0	11	0
Grenada	2	0	0	2	0	12	0
Saint-Martin	2	0	0	2	0	13	0
US Virgin Is	2	0	0	2	0	13	0
Turks & Caicos	2	0	0	2	0	19	0
Sint Maarten	2	0	0	2	0	25	0

Remaining fixtures
3rd matchday
Nov 16: Aruba v Montserrat; Belize v Puerto Rico; Bermuda v El Salvador; British Virgin Islands v Bonaire; Grenada v Saint-Martin.
Nov 17: Cayman Islands v St Lucia; Cuba v Dominican Republic; Jamaica v Surinam; Nicaragua v Haiti.
Nov 18: Bahamas v Anguilla; Barbados v US Virgin Islands; St Kitts & Nevis v Canada; Turks & Caicos Islands v St Vincent & The Grenadines.
Nov 19: Curacao v Guadeloupe; Martinique v Antigua & Barbuda.
Nov 20: French Guiana v Guyana; Sint Maarten v Dominica.

4th matchday
Mar 21: British Virgin Islands v Turks & Caicos Islands.
Mar 22: Anguilla v US Virgin Islands; Cayman Islands v Montserrat; St Vincent & The Grenadines v Bonaire.
Mar 23: El Salvador v Jamaica; Guadeloupe v Martinique; Guyana v Belize; Surinam v St Kitts & Nevis.
Mar 24: Barbados v Nicaragua; Dominican Republic v Bermuda; Haiti v Cuba; Puerto Rico v Grenada.
Mar 25: Antigua & Barbuda v Curacao; Sint Maarten v Saint-Martin; St Lucia v Aruba.
Mar 26: Canada v French Guiana; Dominica v Bahamas.

● *Each country will play 4 games in the qualifying stage (2 home, 2 away), the results being used to compile a league table of all 34 competing countries*
● *The top 6 in the final table will participate in League A of the 2019-20 CONCACAF Nations League competition, alongside the 6 countries that participated in the final round of CONCACAF'S 2018 World Cup qualifiers (Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago and United States), who qualified automatically for League A of the Nations League competition*
● *The next16 in the final table will participate in League B of the 2019-20 CONCACAF Nations League competition*
● *The bottom12 in the final table will participate in League C of the 2019-20 CONCACAF Nations League competition*
● *In addition, the top10 in the final table will qualify for the 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup, joining direct entrants Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago and United States*

BANGABANDHU GOLD CUP

Played in Bangladesh

Group A
Oct 2 - Sylhet
Nepal 0
Tajikistan 2 (Fatkhulloev pen 27, Tursunov 69)
HT: 0-1

Oct 4 - Sylhet
Tajikistan 0
Palestine 2 (Cantillana 1, Bahdari 75)
HT: 0-1

Oct 6 - Sylhet
Palestine 1 (Salem 70)
Nepal 0
HT: 0-0

BANGABANDHU GOLD CUP – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Palestine (Q)	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Tajikistan (Q)	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Nepal	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group B
Oct1 - Sylhet
Bangladesh 1 (Ahamed 59)
Laos 0
HT: 0-0

Oct 3 - Sylhet
Laos 1 (Kongmathilath pen 88)
Philippines 3 (Bedic pen 45, Gayoso 53, Bahadoran pen 82)
HT: 0-1

Oct 5 - Sylhet
Bangladesh 0
Philippines 1 (Daniels 23)
HT: 0-1

BANGABANDHU GOLD CUP – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Philippines (Q)	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Bangladesh (Q)	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Laos	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

● *The top 2 in the groups qualified for the semi-finals*

Semi-finals
Oct 9 - Cox's Bazar
Philippines 0
Tajikistan 2 (Tursunov 32, Nazarov 90+6)
HT: 0-1

Oct10 - Cox's Bazar
Palestine 2 (Balah 9, Maraaba 90+4)
Bangladesh 0
HT: 1-0

Final
Oct12 - Dhaka
Tajikistan 0
Palestine 0
Aet. Palestine 4-3 on pens
Sent off: Fatkhulloev (Tajikistan) 35

FRIENDLIES

Sunday, September 30
Sep 30 - Gaborone
Botswana 1 (Orebonye 5)
Namibia 0
HT: 1-0
Sent off: Ditsele (Botswana) 75

Sep 30 - Georgetown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (Prescott 48)
Barbados 1 (Sargeant 90+2)
HT: 0-0

Wednesday, October 10
Oct10 - Elbasan
Albania 0
Jordan 0
Ref: Nuza (Kos)
Sent off: Al Bakhit (Jordan) 89
Albania: Berisha - Mavraj (Dermaku 56), Gjimshiti, Binaku (Lenjani 61), Mihaj (Hysaj 10), Lila, Xhaka (Balaj 46), Gavazaj, Grezda (Uzuni 46), Ramadani (Ndoj 46), Manaj.

Oct10 - Cikarang
Indonesia 3 (Beto 19, Irfan 26, 40)
Myanmar 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 4,217. **Ref:** Kimura (Jap)

Oct10 - Genoa
Italy 1 (Bernardeschi 55)
Ukraine 1 (Malinovskyi 62)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Obrenovic (Sln)
Italy: Donnarumma - Florenzi (Piccini 84), Bonucci, Chiellini, Biraghi (Criscito 88), Verratti (Bonaventura 70), Jorginho, Barella (Pellegrini 78), Bernardeschi (Immobile 57), Insigne (Berardi 78), Chiesa.
Ukraine: Pyatov - Karavaev, Burda, Rakitskyi (Kryvtsov 88), Matviyenko, Zinchenko, Sydorchuk (Stepanenko 57), Malinovskyi, Marlos (Tsygankov 46), Yaremchuk (A Kravets 76; Butko 90+1), Konoplyanka (Petryak 73).

Thursday, October 11
Oct11 - Riffa
Bahrain 0
Syria 1 (Al Soma 30)
HT: 0-1

Oct11 - Guingamp
France 2 (Eyjolfsson og 86, Mbappe pen 90)
Iceland 2 (B Bjarnason 30, Arnason 58)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,221. **Ref:** Martins (Por)
France: Lloris - Pavard, Varane (Zouma 46), Kimpembe, Digne, Nzonzi, Pogba (Ndombele 67), Thauvin (Lemar 60), Griezmann (Mbappe 60), Dembele (Payet 67), Giroud.
Iceland: Runarsson (Halldorsson 46) - Eyjolfsson, Arnason, R Sigurdsson, Saevarsson (Fjoluson 81), Sigurjonsson, B Bjarnason, J Gudmundsson (Palsson 71), G Sigurdsson (Gislason 80), Traustason (Sigthorsson 59), Finnbogason (A Gudmundsson 46).

Oct11 - Hong Kong
Hong Kong 0
Thailand 1 (Roller 2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 4,740

Oct11 - Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Iraq 0
Argentina 4 (Martinez 18, Pereyra 53, Pezzella 82, Cervi 90+1)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 18,517. **Ref:** Gillett (Aus)
Iraq: Hassan - Mhawi, Ibrahim (Kamil 57), Nadhim, Faez (Sulaka 77), Adnan (Kadhim 68), Yasin (M Ali 46), Attwan, Rashid, Meram (H Ali 46), Resan (Fayyadh 70).
Argentina: Romero - Bustos (Kannemann 75), Pezzella, Funes Mori, Acuna, Paredes (Cervi 60), Dybala, Meza (Ascacibar 46), Vazquez (Salvio 46), De Paul (Pereyra 46), Martinez (Simeone 57).

Oct11 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 1 (Zayid 81)
Lebanon 0
HT: 0-0

Oct11 - Monterrey
Mexico 3 (Guzman 33, Martin 56, Jimenez pen 71)
Costa Rica 2 (Campbell 29, Ruiz pen 44)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 35,827. **Ref:** Moncada (Hnd)
Mexico: Lajud (Gudino 46) - Van Rankin (Damm 46), Alvarez, Angulo, Arteaga, Duenas, Aguirre, Guzman, Brizuela (Jimenez 61), Zaldivar (Martin 46), Alvarado (J M Corona 61).
Costa Rica: Navas - Gamboa (Smith 85), Duarte, Gonzalez, Calvo, Oviedo (Matarrita 66), Cruz (Segura 76), Ruiz (Leal 62), Guzman (Hadden 79), Venegas, Campbell (Marin 76).

Oct11 - Rize
Turkey 0
Bosnia-Herzegovina 0
Ref: Karasev (Rus)
Turkey: Bolat - Sener (Muldur 86), Ayhan (Ertugrul 82), Caglar, Bayram, Mahmut (Malli 65), Okay, Cengiz (Gurler 80), Ozyakup (Ozcan 86), Calhanoglu, Enes (Tosun 46).
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Sehic (Begovic 46) - Todorovic, Vranjes, Zukanovic, Nastic, Krunic (Saric 81), Pjanic (Prcic 46), Cimirot, Visca (Milosevic 46), Dzeko (Bajic 46), Zakaric (Kodro 69).

Oct11 - Barcelona, Spain
United Arab Emirates 1 (O Abdulrahman 32)
Honduras 1 (Quioto 16)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Capela (Por)

Oct11 - Tampa
United States 2 (Acosta 50, Wood 53)
Colombia 4 (Rodriguez 36, Bacca 56, Falcao 74, M Borja 79)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 38,631. **Ref:** Pitti (Pan)
United States: Steffen - Yedlin, Miazga, Brooks, Robinson (Sweat 75), Bradley, Acosta, Weah (Delgado 68), Green (Novakovich 84), Saief (Picault 58), Wood (Sargent 83).
Colombia: Ospina - Arias, D Sanchez, J Murillo, Machado, Rodriguez (Moreno 82), Uribe, Barrios (Roa 89), Cuadrado (Quintero 55; Chara 83), Bacca (M Borja 76), Falcao (Cardona 76).

Oct11 - Cardiff
Wales 1 (Vokes 89)
Spain 4 (Paco Alcacer 8, 29, Sergio Ramos 19, Bartra 73)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 50,232. **Ref:** Taylor (Eng)
Wales: Hennessey - Gunter, Williams (Chester 46), B Davies (Richards 62), C Roberts, Ampadu (King 50), Allen (Smith 62), John (Lawrence 62), Wilson (Brooks 46), Vokes, Ramsey.
Spain: De Gea (Kepa 46) - Azpilicueta (Jonny 63), Albiol, Sergio Ramos (Bartra 46), Gaya, Dani Ceballos, Rodri, Saul (Koke 46), Suso (Rodrigo 81), Morata, Paco Alcacer (Iago Aspas 73).

Friday, October 12
Oct12 - Phnom Penh
Cambodia 2 (Vathanaka 40, Bunheing 90+1)
East Timor 2 (Santos 30, Rufino Gama 42)
HT: 1-2

Oct12 - Niigata
Japan 3 (Minamino 42, J Ito 65, Cummings og 85)
Panama 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 38,322. **Ref:** Kim Dong-jin (SKo)
Japan: Gonda - Muroya, Tomiyasu, Makino, Sasaki, J Ito (Doan 81), Misao, Aoyama (Shibasaki 88), Haraguchi, Osako (Kitagawa 66), Minamino (Kawamata 66).
Panama: Calderon - Palacios (Cooper 46), Cummings, Escobar, Davis, Murillo, Godoy, Rodriguez, Arroyo (Blackburn 81), Barcenas (Pimentel 72), Torres (Martinez 75).

Oct12 - Miami, USA
Peru 3 (Roco og 64, Aquino 75, 85)
Chile 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,016. **Ref:** Villarreal (USA)
Peru: Gallese - Advincula, Ramos, Santamaria, Trauco, Tapia (Aquino 74), Yotun, Carrillo (Polo 76), Cueva (Calcaterra 88), Flores (Hurtado 76), Ruidiaz (Reyna 84).

Chile: De Paul - Isla, Roco, Maripan, Mena, Vidal, Medel (Reyes 82), Fernandez, Sagal (Davila 60), Castillo (Jeraldino 60), Fernandes (Henriquez 67).

Oct12 - Doha
Qatar 4 (Akram Afif 31, Almoez Ali 35, 67, Al Haidos pen 60)
Ecuador 3 (Valencia 65, 70, Cevallos 89)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 11,480. **Ref:** Makhadmeh (Jor)
Ecuador: Dominguez - Palacios (Chala 46), Erazo, Arboleda, Ramirez, M Bolanos (Caicedo 76), Franco (Cevallos 62), Mendez (Gruezo 62), Ayrton Preciado, Valencia, Plaza (Angelo Preciado 46). *Sent off: Erazo 72, Valencia 90+3.*

Oct12 - Riyadh
Saudi Arabia 0
Brazil 2 (Gabriel Jesus 43, Alex Sandro 90+6)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 23,401. **Ref:** Makkelie (Hol)
Saudi Arabia: Al Owais - Al Burayk (Al Mowalad 72), Omar Hawsawi, Al Bulaihi, Al Shahrani, Al Mogahwi (Gharib 90+2), Otayf, Al Faraj, Al Bishi (Al Shehri 80), Bahebri (Malayekah 87), Al Dawsari (Abdulghani 90+1). *Sent off: Al Owais 85.*
Brazil: Ederson - Fabinho, Marquinhos, Pablo, Alex Sandro, Fred (Lucas Moura 46), Casemiro (Walace 66), Renato Augusto, Philippe Coutinho (Arthur 72), Gabriel Jesus (Richarlison 72), Neymar.

Oct12 - Singapore
Singapore 2 (Hariss 71, Quak 82)
Mongolia 0
HT: 0-0

Oct12 - Seoul
South Korea 2 (Hwang Ui-jo 66, Jung Woo-young 79)
Uruguay 1 (Vecino 72)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 64,170. **Ref:** Faghani (Irn)
South Korea: Kim Seung-gyu - Lee Yong, Jang Hyun-soo, Kim Young-gwon (Moon Seon-min 78), Hong Chul, Jung Woo-young, Ki Sung-yueng (Hwang In-beom 85), Hwang Hee-chan (Kim Min-jae 78), Nam Tae-hee, Son Heung-min, Hwang Ui-jo (Suk Hyun-jun 67).
Uruguay: Muslera - Caceres, Coates, Godin, Laxalt (Saracchi 84), Torreira, Nandez (G Silva 46), Vecino (Pereiro 73), Bentancur, Stuani (Gomez 62), Cavani.

Oct12 - Colombo
Sri Lanka 1 (Madushan 30)
Malaysia 4 (Norshahrul 65, Adam 76, Piuslas og 85, Sumareh 90+1)
HT: 1-0

Saturday, October 13
Oct13 - Suzhou
China 0
India 0
Att: 23,500. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)
China: Yan Junling - Wang Tong (Yu Hanchao 46), Feng Xiaoting, Yu Yang (Liu Yiming 46), Li Xuepeng (Fan Xiaodong 79), Zhao Xuri (Mirahmetjan 67), Wu Xi, Jin Jingdao (Yu Hai 46), Wu Lei, Gao Lin, Yu Dabao (Xiao Zhi 46).
India: G Singh - Bose, Jhingan, Das (Edathodika 63), Kotal, U Singh (Poojari 63), Thapa (Borges 90+1), Halder (Rai 84), Narzary, Chhetri, Lalpekhlua (Choudhary 79).

Oct13 - Yangon
Myanmar 0
Bolivia 3 (Haquin 4, Martins Moreno 25, L Vaca 67)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Ngamsom (Tha)
Myanmar: Kyaw Zin Htet - Htan, Soe Moe Kyaw, Htike Htike Aung, Thein Than Win, Ye Ko Oo (Htet Phyo Wai 46), Hlaing Bo Bo, Myo Ko Tun (Lwin Moe Aung 51), Si Thu Aung (Yan Naing Oo 68), Maung Maung Lwin (Than Htet Aung 84), Kaung Sett Naing (Zin Min Tun 61).
Bolivia: Vizcarra - O Ribera, Candia (Montero 54), Haquin, Sagredo, Campos (Villarroel 84), Wayar (Bejarano 80), Arano (Justiniano 66), J Ribera (L Vaca 60), Alvarez (Melgar 75), Martins Moreno.

Oct13 - Doha, Qatar
Oman 1 (Saleh 8)
Philippines 1 (Al Hajri og 38)
HT: 1-1

Oct13 - Tashkent
Uzbekistan 2 (Bikmaev 37, 90+1)
North Korea 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Mashentsev (Kyr)

Sunday, October 14
Oct14 - Glasgow
Scotland 1 (Naismith 90+3)
Portugal 3 (Helder Costa 44, Eder 74, Bruma 84)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 19,684. **Ref:** Buquet (Fra)
Scotland: Gordon - O'Donnell, Hendry, McKenna, Robertson, Forrest, McGinn (Shinnie 67), Armstrong (McDonald 76), C McGregor, Naismith, McBurnie (Mackay-Steven 76).
Portugal: Beto (Claudio Ramos 86) - Cedric, Ruben Dias (Pedro Mendes 56), Luis Neto, Kevin Rodrigues, Sergio Oliveira (Renato Sanches 56), Danilo Pereira (William Carvalho 90+1), Bruno Fernandes (Gedson Fernandes 67), Helder Costa, Eder, Bruma (Rafa Silva 90+1).

Oct14 - Suphanburi
Thailand 1 (Thitipan 66)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Foo (Sin)
Thailand: Sinthaweechai (Chatchai 17) - Theerathon, Mika, Chalermpong, Suphan, Pokkhao, Sumanya (Pakorn 90+3), Chanathip (Thitipan 61), Chananan (Sasalak 46), Adisak (Supachai 86), Teerasil (Anon 46).
Trinidad & Tobago: Phillip - David (Jones 75), Bateau, Cyrus, Hodge, Paul, George (John 75), Hyland, Lewis, Williams (Humphrey 70; Julien 90+2), Winchester.

Monday, October 15
Oct15 - Rijeka
Croatia 2 (Vida 24, Mitrovic 62)
Jordan 1 (Faisal 73)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 4,820. **Ref:** Szabo (Hun)
Croatia: Livakovic - Bartolec (Jedvaj 64), Lovren (Mitrovic 46), Vida, Milic (Pivaric 46), Rog, Badelj (Bradaric 46), Pasalic, Kramaric (Santini 67), Rebic (Livaja 64), Pjaca.
Jordan: Yaseen - Khattab, Marei, Al Arab, Shelbaieh, Al Mardi (Al Rawashdeh 72), Al Samarneh (Al Murjan 64), Al Bakhit, Bani Attiah, Al Taamari (Rateb 90), Khadr (Faisal 64).

Oct15 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 0
Australia 4 (Ebrahim og 12, Giannou 21, Rogic 82, Mabil 88)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Abdul Baki (Oma)
Kuwait: Al Qallaf - Said, Al Hajri, Ebrahim (Al Khaled 62), Al Fadhel (Frieh 82), Al Ansari, S Al Enezi (Al Azmi 46), F Al Enezi (Hubaiter 67), Mawi (Al Dhefiri 71), Al Tararwa (Zayid 46), Al Moussawi.
Australia: Vukovic - Risdon (Deng 76), Sainsbury, Milligan, Behich (Gersbach 83), Leckie (Mabil 73), Irvine (Amini 76), Luongo, Kruse (Arzani 65), Rogic, Giannou (Juric 65).

Oct15 - Riyadh
Saudi Arabia 1 (Al Bishi 90+4)
Iraq 1 (M Ali 71)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Green (Aus)

Tuesday, October 16
Oct16 - Riffa
Bahrain 4 (Rashid pen 43, Marhoon 49, 67, Issa 69)
Myanmar 1 (Myat Kaung Khant 51)
HT: 1-0

Oct16 - Brussels
Belgium 1 (Mertens 5)
Holland 1 (Groeneveld 27)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Soares Dias (Por)
Belgium: Mignolet - Alderweireld, Boyata, Denayer, Castagne (Meunier 73), Tielemans (Carrasco 83), Witsel, Chadli, R Lukaku (Batshuayi 46), Mertens (Praet 46), E Hazard (T Hazard 46).
Holland: Cillessen - Dumfries (Hateboer 46), De Ligt (Rosario 46), De Vrij, Ake, Groeneveld (Vilhena 61), Van de Beek (Van Aanholt 61), Blind, Strootman (L De Jong 73), Promes (Bergwijn 73), Depay.

Oct16 - Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Brazil 1 (Miranda 90+2)
Argentina 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 62,315. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Brazil: Alisson - Danilo (Fabinho 53), Marquinhos, Miranda, Filipe Luis, Arthur, Casemiro, Philippe Coutinho, Gabriel Jesus (Richarlison 64), Roberto Firmino, Neymar.
Argentina: Romero - Saravia, Pezzella, Otamendi, Tagliafico (Acuna 81), Lo Celso (Salvio 72), Battaglia, Paredes, Dybala (Martinez 58), Icardi (Simeone 87), Correa (Pereyra 68).

Oct16 - Phnom Penh
Cambodia 1 (Ho Wai Loon og 17)
Singapore 2 (Mahler 61, Ikhsan 74)
HT: 1-0

Oct16 - Nanjing
China 2 (Gao Lin 20, Wu Lei pen 68)
Syria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 22,015. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)

Oct16 - Harrison, USA
Colombia 3 (Bacca 30, Hernandez 73, 90+2)
Costa Rica 1 (Waston 44)
HT: 1-1. **Ref:** Elfath (USA)
Colombia: Ospina - Arias, D Sanchez, O Murillo, C Borja, Quintero (Cardona 72), Barrios, Uribe (Cuadrado 64), Rodriguez (Roa 88), Falcao (M Borja 82), Bacca (Hernandez 72).
Costa Rica: Navas - Gamboa (Smith 73), Waston, Gonzalez, Oviedo, Ruiz (Leal 86), Guzman, Cruz (Hadden 68), Matarrita (Segura 68), Ramirez (Sequeira 74), Campbell (Venegas 53).

Oct16 - Herning
Denmark 2 (Lerager 29, Braithwaite 90+3)
Austria 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,386. **Ref:** Nilsen (Nor)
Denmark: Schmeichel - Ankersen, Kjaer (M Jorgensen 61), Vestergaard, Knudsen (J Larsen 90), Christensen (Jensen 63), Poulsen (Braithwaite 46), Lerager, Hojbjerg, Sisto, Dolberg (Gytkjaer 46).
Austria: Strebinger - Dragovic, Prodl (Janko 71), Hinteregger (Wimmer 46), Lazaro, Schopf (Hierlander 71), Schlager (Ilsanker 36), Ulmer, Sabitzer (Kainz 46), Schaub (Trauner 77), Burgstaller.

Oct16 - Cikarang
Indonesia 1 (Beto 39)
Hong Kong 1 (Festus 69)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,729. **Ref:** Lim (Cam)

Oct16 - Tehran
Iran 2 (Jahanbakhsh 16, Torabi 63)
Bolivia 1 (Cardozo 51)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Shaban (Kuw)
Iran: Beiranvand - Moharrami, Hajsafi, Ebrahimi (Karimi 84), Cheshmi, Amiri (Torabi 46), M Hosseini, Ghoddos (Dejagah 46), Azmoun (Ansarifard 46), Jahanbakhsh (Shojaei 46), Taremi (Gholizadeh 78).
Bolivia: Vizcarra - Haquin, Sagredo, Wayar (Bejarano 65), Valverde, Saavedra (Arano 71), O Ribera, Justiniano (Anez 83), Alvarez (L Vaca 77), H Vaca (Martins Moreno 65), Cardozo (Campos 77).

Oct16 - Saitama
Japan 4 (Minamino 10, 66, Osako 36, Doan 59)
Uruguay 3 (Pereiro 28, Cavani 57, Rodriguez 75)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 57,239. **Ref:** Ko (SKo)
Japan: Higashiguchi - H Sakai, Miura, Yoshida, Nagatomo, Endo, Shibasaki (Aoyama 74), Doan, Minamino, Nakajima (Haraguchi 87), Osako.
Uruguay: Muslera - Caceres (Mayada 64), Coates, Godin, Laxalt, Pereiro (Gomez 77; Stuani 85), Bentancur (Valverde 46), Torreira (Nandez 74), Saracchi, De Arrascaeta (Rodriguez 46), Cavani.

Oct16 - Vientiane
Laos 1 (Bounkong 23)
Mongolia 4 (Monkh-Erdene 28, Narmandakh 73, Jansyeric 75, Naranbold 83)
HT: 1-1

Oct16 - Malacca
Malaysia 0
Kyrgyzstan 1 (Sagynbaev 68)
HT: 0-0
Sent off: Yusupov (Kyrgyzstan) 82

Oct16 - Queretaro
Mexico 0
Chile 1 (Castillo 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 33,000. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
Mexico: H Gonzalez (Gudino 90+3) - Rodriguez, Reyes, Araujo, Gallardo, Guemez (Aguirre 63), Gutierrez, J M Corona (Damm 62), Fabian (Brizuela 63), Lozano (Martin 81), Jimenez.
Chile: Cortes - Isla, Roco, Maripan, Parot (Mena 46), Vidal, Medel, Sagal (Castillo 78), Valdes (Pulgar 66), Fernandes (Diaz 71), Sanchez.

Oct16 - Doha, Qatar
Oman 0
Ecuador 0
Ref: Al Marri (Qat)
Ecuador: Dominguez - Caicedo, Gruezo, Sornoza (Plaza 58), Arboleda, Plata (Angelo Preciado 46), Ramirez, Franco (Cevallos 46), Chala (Ayrton Preciado 46), Mendez, M Bolanos.

Oct16 - Cheonan
South Korea 2 (Park Joo-ho 6, Hwang In-beom 33)
Panama 2 (Arroyo 45, Blackburn 49)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 25,556. **Ref:** Faghani (Irn)
South Korea: Cho Hyun-woo - Lee Yong (Kim Moon-hwan 46), Kim Min-jae (Jang Hyun-soo 78), Kim Young-gwon, Park Joo-ho (Hong Chul 71), Nam Tae-hee, Ki Sung-yueng, Hwang In-beom (Jung Woo-young 65), Hwang Hee-chan (Moon Seon-min 71), Suk Hyun-jun (Hwang Ui-jo 65), Son Heung-min.
Panama: Mejia - Murillo, Cummings, Machado, Ovalle (Davis 68), Rodriguez (Torres 75), Godoy, Camargo (Escobar 81), Cooper (Barcenas 68), Blackburn (Martinez 90+1), Arroyo.

Oct16 - Stockholm
Sweden 1 (Guidetti 52)
Slovakia 1 (Rusnak 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,876. **Ref:** Kehlet (Den)
Sweden: Johnsson (Nordfeldt 46) - Krafth, Jansson, Granqvist (Papagiannopoulos 81), M Olsson, Durmaz (Claesson 66), K Olsson, Ekdal (Rohden 81), Hiljemark (Peterson 81), Andersson (Berg 66), Guidetti.
Slovakia: Dubravka - Sabo, Skriniar, Skrtel (Satka 83), Hancko, Kucka (Hrosovsky 55), Lobotka (Gregus 55), Rusnak, Hamsik (Duda 66), Mak (Bero 66), Nemec (Mraz 71).

Oct16 - Barcelona, Spain
United Arab Emirates 0
Venezuela 2 (Mago 1, Ponce 48)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 300. **Ref:** Xistra (Por)

Oct16 - East Hartford
United States 1 (Sargent 49)
Peru 1 (Flores 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 24,959. **Ref:** Barton (ESv)
United States: Guzan - Cannon (Yedlin 84), Carter-Vickers, Long, Sweat, Trapp, Weah (Robinson 90+2), Delgado, Acosta (Bradley 79), Amon (Green 55), Sargent (Wood 69).
Peru: Carvallo - Advincula (Madrid 46), Ramos, Callens, Loyola, Tapia (Aquino 67), Pena (Yotun 66), Polo (Carrillo 90+1), Hurtado (Reyna 59), Flores, Ruidiaz.

Oct16 - Tashkent
Uzbekistan 2 (Akhmedov 73, Bikmaev 86)
Qatar 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,155. **Ref:** Kurbanov (Tkm)

AFF CHAMPIONSHIP (Suzuki Cup)
(ASEAN Football Federation)

Finals match schedule
Group A
Nov 8: Cambodia v Malaysia; Laos v Vietnam.
Nov 12: Malaysia v Laos; Myanmar v Cambodia.
Nov 16: Laos v Myanmar; Vietnam v Malaysia.
Nov 20: Myanmar v Vietnam; Cambodia v Laos.
Nov 24: Vietnam v Cambodia; Malaysia v Myanmar.

Group B
Nov 9: Singapore v Indonesia; East Timor v Thailand.
Nov 13: Indonesia v East Timor; Philippines v Singapore.
Nov 17: East Timor v Philippines; Thailand v Indonesia.
Nov 21: Philippines v Thailand; Singapore v East Timor.
Nov 25: Thailand v Singapore; Indonesia v Philippines.

● *The top 2 in the groups qualify for the semi-finals*

Semi-finals
A 2nd v B 1st
1st leg - Dec1; 2nd leg - Dec 5
B 2nd v A 1st
1st leg - Dec 2; 2nd leg - Dec 6

Final
1st leg - Dec11; 2nd leg - Dec15

Club football

SOUTH AMERICA

LIBERTADORES CUP

Quarter-finals

1st legs

Sep18
Atletico Tucuman (Arg) 0
Gremio (Bra) 2 (Alisson 35, Everton 55)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Sent off: Nunez (Atletico Tucuman) 45+1

Sep19
Boca Juniors (Arg) 2 (Zarate 36, Perez 82)
Cruzeiro (Bra) 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Aquino (Par)
Sent off: Dede (Cruzeiro) 75 (the red card was later rescinded)

Independiente (Arg) 0
River Plate (Arg) 0
Ref: Sampaio (Bra)

Sep 20
Colo Colo (Chl) 0
Palmeiras (Bra) 2 (Bruno Henrique 3, Dudu 78)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Cunha (Uru)
Sent off: Perez (Colo Colo) 90+8

2nd legs

Oct 2
Gremio 4 (Luan 36, Cicero pen 45, Mercier og 53, Jael pen 90+2)
Atletico Tucuman 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Tobar (Chl)
Sent off: Lucchetti (Atletico Tucuman) 41
Gremio 6-0 on agg

River Plate 3 (Scocco 47, Quintero 69, Borre 85)
Independiente 1 (S Romero 55)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Daronco (Bra)
River Plate 3-1 on agg

Oct 3
Palmeiras 2 (Dudu 37, Borja pen 53)
Colo Colo 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Roldan (Col)
Palmeiras 4-0 on agg

Oct 4
Cruzeiro 1 (Sassa 58)
Boca Juniors 1 (Pavon 90+4)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Cunha (Uru)
Sent off: Dede (Cruzeiro) 81
Boca Juniors 3-1 on agg

SUDAMERICANA CUP

3rd round

1st legs - Aug 21-Sep 26; 2nd legs - Sep19-Oct 4
Bahia (Bra) v Botafogo (Bra)
2-1, 1-2 (agg 3-3, Bahia 5-4 on pens)
Caracas (Ven) v Atletico Paranaense (Bra)
0-2, 1-2 (agg 1-4)
Defensa y Justicia (Arg) v Banfield (Arg)
0-0, 2-0 (agg 2-0)
Deportivo Cuenca (Ecu) v Fluminense (Bra)
0-2, 0-2 (agg 0-4)
Junior (Col) v Colon (Arg)
1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)
LDU Quito (Ecu) v Deportivo Cali (Col)
1-0, 0-1 (agg 1-1, Dep Cali 3-1 on pens)
San Lorenzo (Arg) v Nacional (Uru)
3-1, 0-2 (agg 3-3, Nacional on away goals)
Santa Fe (Col) v Millonarios (Col)
0-0, 0-0 (agg 0-0, Santa Fe 5-3 on pens)

CONCACAF

CONCACAF LEAGUE

Semi-finals

1st legs - Sep 20; 2nd legs - Sep 27
Herediano (CR) v Arabe Unido (Pan)
2-0, 0-1 (agg 2-1)
Tauro (Pan) v Motagua (Hnd)
2-1, 0-2 (agg 2-3)

EUROPE

ICELAND

2018 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Valur (C)	22	13	7	2	50	24	46
Breidablik	22	13	5	4	39	17	44
Stjarnan	22	11	7	4	45	26	40
KR	22	10	7	5	36	25	37
FH	22	10	7	5	36	28	37
IBV	22	8	5	9	29	31	29
KA	22	7	7	8	36	34	28
Fylkir	22	7	5	10	31	37	26
Vikingur R	22	6	7	9	29	38	25
Grindavik	22	7	4	11	26	37	25
Fjolnir (R)	22	4	7	11	22	44	19
Keflavik (R)	22	0	4	18	11	49	4

ASIA

AFC CUP

West Asia Zone

Final

1st leg - Sep18; 2nd leg - Oct 2
Al Jazeera (Jor) v Al Quwa Al Jawiya (Irq)
0-1, 1-3 (agg 1-4)
● *Al Quwa Al Jawiya qualified for the AFC Cup Final*

ASEAN Zone

Final

1st leg - Aug1; 2nd leg - Aug 8
Ceres (Phi) v Home United (Sin)
1-1, 0-2 (agg 1-3)
● *Home United qualified for the Inter-Zone play-offs*

Inter-Zone play-offs

Semi-finals

1st legs - Aug 21/22; 2nd legs - Aug 28/29
Bengaluru (Ind) v Altyn Asyr (Tkm)
2-3, 0-2 (agg 2-5)
Home United v April 25 (NKo)
0-2, 1-9 (agg 1-11)

Final

1st leg - Sep19; 2nd leg - Oct 3
April 25 v Altyn Asyr
2-2, 1-1 (agg 3-3, Altyn Asyr on away goals)
● *Altyn Asyr qualified for the AFC Cup Final*

CAMBODIA

2018 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nagaworld (C)	22	18	2	2	66	17	56
Boeung Ket	22	15	4	3	52	23	49
Visakha	22	14	3	5	54	24	45
Nat'l Defense	22	13	3	6	55	25	42
PP Crown	22	11	3	8	41	33	36
Svay Rieng	22	10	3	9	52	41	33
Asia Euro Utd	22	8	6	8	46	44	30
Angkor Tiger	22	7	7	8	33	33	28
Nat'l Police	22	7	4	11	37	48	25
Soltilo Angkor	22	5	5	12	29	34	20
Electricite	22	2	3	17	16	75	9
West'n PP (R)	22	0	1	21	14	98	1

MONGOLIA

2018 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Erchim (C)	18	12	5	1	52	17	41
FC Ulaanb'tar	18	10	7	1	41	17	37
Anduud City	18	10	5	3	31	18	35
Athletic 220	18	9	6	3	39	15	33
Deren	18	8	7	3	41	15	31
Ulaanb'r City	18	7	5	6	30	28	26
Khangarid	18	4	6	8	24	26	18
Selenge Press	18	3	4	11	22	41	13
Arvis (R)	18	2	4	12	24	62	10
Gepro (R)	18	0	1	17	8	73	1

SINGAPORE

2018 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Albirex (C)	24	21	3	0	69	17	66
Home United	24	12	7	5	48	36	43
Brunei DPMM	24	11	8	5	46	38	41
Tampines Rvrs	24	12	4	8	43	27	40
Warriors	24	7	7	10	32	35	28
Balestier K'sa	24	7	6	11	25	36	27
Young Lions	24	5	6	13	25	46	21
Geylang Intl	24	5	5	14	26	57	20
Hougang Utd	24	2	6	16	22	44	12

THAILAND

2018 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Buriram Utd (C)	34	28	3	3	76	25	87
Bangkok Utd	34	21	8	5	68	36	71
Port	34	19	4	11	73	45	61
Muangthong	34	16	11	7	65	53	59
Chiangrai Utd	34	15	10	9	52	36	55
Prachuap	34	15	8	11	56	46	53
Nakhon R'sima	34	13	8	13	36	44	47
Pattaya Utd	34	13	7	14	50	62	46
Chonburi	34	13	7	14	45	53	46
Suphanburi	34	11	13	10	43	35	46
Sukhothai	34	12	7	15	53	63	43
Ratchaburi	34	12	7	15	50	53	43
Chainat H'bill	34	11	9	14	46	52	42
B'kok Glass (R)	34	11	9	14	55	46	42
Police Tero (R)	34	10	6	18	53	66	36
Navy (R)	34	7	9	18	44	85	30
Ubon UMT (R)	34	6	8	20	39	58	26
Air Force C (R)	34	4	4	26	32	78	16

VIETNAM

2018 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ha Noi (C)	26	20	4	2	72	30	64
Thanh Hoa	26	13	7	6	43	29	46
Sanna K Hoa	26	11	10	5	33	27	43
Song Lam NA	26	12	6	8	38	32	42
T Quang Ninh	26	9	8	9	40	39	35
Hai Phong	26	9	7	10	26	26	34
Binh Duong	26	7	12	7	39	36	33
Sai Gon	26	9	4	13	38	42	31
Da Nang	26	8	7	11	38	49	31
Hoang Anh GL	26	8	7	11	41	53	31
Quang Nam	26	7	10	9	37	45	31
Ho Chi Minh C	26	7	6	13	37	45	27
Nam Dinh[1]	26	5	9	12	33	45	24
Can Tho (R)	26	4	9	13	26	43	21

[1] *Stay in top division after winning rel/prom play-off*

AFRICA

KENYA

2018 – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gor Mahia (C)	34	23	6	5	71	31	75
Bandari	34	17	11	6	40	20	62
Tusker	34	16	8	10	47	35	56
Ulinzi Stars	34	15	9	10	38	26	54
Sofapaka	34	15	8	11	45	41	53
Kari'gi Sharks	34	13	12	9	48	40	51
Leopards	34	14	9	11	47	48	51
Mathare Utd	34	11	15	8	47	45	48
SoNy Sugar	34	12	9	13	33	30	45
K Homeboyz	34	12	8	14	35	44	44
Zoo Kericho	34	10	12	12	42	48	42
Vihiga United	34	10	11	13	29	30	41
Nzoia Sugar	34	11	8	15	35	38	41
Chemelil Sugar	34	9	12	13	24	28	39
Posta Rangers	34	9	11	14	27	37	38
Nakumatt	34	9	10	15	49	61	37
Wazito (R)	34	8	7	19	31	53	31
Thika Utd (R)	34	5	8	21	23	56	23

MADAGASCAR

2018 – CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CNaPS (C)	6	4	1	1	9	3	13
Fosa Juniors	6	3	1	2	9	6	10
Elgeco	6	2	1	3	9	12	7
Vakinankaratra	6	1	1	4	7	13	4

KEY TO TABLES
(C) = champions
(R) = relegated
(P) = promoted
(Q) = qualified for next stage
(QF) = qualified for finals

● *All fixtures are subject to change*

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GERMANY: BUNDESLIGA 2018-19

AUGSBURG

GOALKEEPERS
13 Fabian **GIEFER** (28) 17.05.90
39 Benjamin **LENEIS** (19) 08.03.99
1 Andreas **LUTHE** (31) 10.03.87

DEFENDERS
26 Simon **ASTA** (17) 25.01.01
18 Jan-Ingwer **CALLSEN-BRACKER** (34) 23.09.84
38 Kevin **DANSO** (20) 19.09.98
32 Raphael **FRAMBERGER** (23) 06.09.95
4 Felix **GOTZE** (20) 11.02.98
6 Jeffrey **GOUWELEEUW** (Hol) (27) 10.07.91
36 Martin **HINTEREGGER** (Aut) (26) 07.09.92
16 Christoph **JANKER** (33) 14.02.85
25 Kilian **JAKOB** (20) 25.01.98
31 Philipp **MAX** (25) 30.09.93
3 Kostas **STAFYLIDIS** (Gre) (24) 02.12.93
15 Jozo **STANIC** (Cro) (19) 06.04.99

MIDFIELDERS
10 Daniel **BAIER** (34) 18.05.84
30 **CAIUBY** (Bra) (30) 14.07.88
11 Michael **GREGORITSCH** (Aut) (24) 18.04.94
28 Andre **HAHN** (28) 13.08.90
24 Fredrik **JENSEN** (Fin) (21) 09.09.97
8 Rani **KHEDIRA** (24) 27.01.94
19 **KOO** Ja-Cheol (SKo) (29) 27.02.89
14 Jan **MORAVEK** (CzR) (29) 01.11.89
17 Jonathan **SCHMID** (Fra) (28) 26.06.90
33 Felix **SCHWARZHOLZ** (19) 24.09.99
34 Georg **TEIGL** (Aut) (27) 09.02.91

FORWARDS
21 Sergio **CORDOVA** (Ven) (21) 09.08.97
27 Alfred **FINNBOGASON** (Ice) (29) 01.02.89
22 **JI** Dong-Won (SKo) (27) 28.05.91
23 Marco **RICHTER** (20) 24.11.97
29 Romario **ROSCH** (19) 01.07.99
20 Julian **SCHIEBER** (29) 13.02.89

COACH
Manuel **BAUM** (39) 30.08.79

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

GOALKEEPERS
1 Lukas **HRADECKY** (Fin) (28) 24.11.89
24 Thorsten **KIRSCHBAUM** (31) 20.04.87
40 Tomasz **KUCZ** (Pol) (19) 06.07.99
28 Ramazan **OZCAN** (Aut) (34) 28.06.84

DEFENDERS
5 Sven **BENDER** (29) 27.04.89
6 Aleksandar **DRAGOVIC** (Aut) (27) 06.03.91
16 Tin **JEDVAJ** (Cro) (22) 28.11.95
3 Panagiotis **RETSOS** (Gre) (20) 09.08.98
4 Jonathan **TAH** (22) 11.02.96
23 Mitchell **WEISER** (24) 21.04.94
18 **WENDELL** (Bra) (25) 20.07.93

MIDFIELDERS
20 Charles **ARANGUIZ** (Chl) (29) 17.04.89
15 Julian **BAUMGARTLINGER** (Aut) (30) 02.01.88
32 Jakub **BEDNARCZYK** (Pol) (19) 02.01.99
38 Karim **BELLARABI** (28) 08.04.90
8 Lars **BENDER** (29) 27.04.89
29 Kai **HAVERTZ** (19) 11.06.99
21 Dominik **KOHR** (24) 31.01.94
30 Sam **SCHRECK** (19) 29.01.99

FORWARDS
13 Lucas **ALARIO** (Arg) (26) 08.10.92
9 Leon **BAILEY** (Jam) (21) 09.08.97
10 Julian **BRANDT** (22) 02.05.96
11 Isaac **KIESE THELIN** (Swe) (26) 24.06.92
7 **PAULINHO** (Bra) (18) 15.07.00
17 Joel **POHJANPALO** (Fin) (24) 13.09.94
31 Kevin **VOLLAND** (26) 30.07.92

COACH
Heiko **HERRLICH** (46) 03.12.71

BAYERN MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS
36 Christian **FRUCHTL** (18) 28.01.00
39 Ron-Thorben **HOFFMANN** (19) 04.04.99
1 Manuel **NEUER** (32) 27.03.86
26 Sven **ULREICH** (30) 03.08.88

DEFENDERS
27 David **ALABA** (Aut) (26) 24.06.92
17 Jerome **BOATENG** (30) 03.09.88
5 Mats **HUMMELS** (29) 16.12.88
32 Joshua **KIMMICH** (23) 08.02.95
23 Jonathan **MEIER** (18) 11.11.99
13 **RAFINHA** (Bra) (33) 07.09.85
4 Niklas **SULE** (23) 03.09.95

MIDFIELDERS
29 Kingsley **COMAN** (Fra) (22) 13.06.96
22 Serge **GNABRY** (23) 14.07.95
18 Leon **GORETZKA** (23) 06.02.95
8 Javi **MARTINEZ** (Spa) (30) 02.09.88
7 Franck **RIBERY** (Fra) (35) 01.04.83
11 James **RODRIGUEZ** (Col) (27) 12.07.91
35 Renato **SANCHES** (Por) (21) 18.08.97
6 **THIAGO** Alcantara (Spa) (27) 11.04.91
24 Corentin **TOLISSO** (Fra) (24) 03.08.94

FORWARDS
9 Robert **LEWANDOWSKI** (Pol) (30) 21.08.88
25 Thomas **MULLER** (29) 13.09.89
10 Arjen **ROBBEN** (Hol) (34) 23.01.84
2 Sandro **WAGNER** (30) 29.11.87

COACH
Niko **KOVAC** (Cro) (47) 15.10.71

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

GOALKEEPERS
1 Roman **BURKI** (Swi) (27) 14.11.90
35 Marwin **HITZ** (Swi) (31) 18.09.87
40 Eric **OELSCHLAGEL** (23) 20.09.95

DEFENDERS
16 Manuel **AKANJI** (Swi) (23) 19.07.95
4 Abdou **DIALLO** (Fra) (22) 04.05.96
13 Raphael **GUERREIRO** (Por) (24) 22.12.93
5 Achraf **HAKIMI** (Mor) (19) 04.11.98
26 Lukasz **PISZCZEK** (Pol) (33) 03.06.85
29 Marcel **SCHMELZER** (30) 22.01.88
15 Jeremy **TOLJAN** (24) 08.08.94
36 Omer **TOPRAK** (Tur) (29) 21.07.89
2 Dan-Axel **ZAGADOU** (Fra) (19) 03.06.99

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32 Dzenis **BURNIC** (20) 22.05.98
19 Mahmoud **DAHOUD** (22) 01.01.96
6 Thomas **DELANEY** (Den) (27) 03.09.91
10 Mario **GOTZE** (26) 03.06.92
23 Shinji **KAGAWA** (Jap) (29) 17.03.89
22 Christian **PULISIC** (USA) (20) 18.09.98
18 Sebastian **RODE** (27) 11.10.90
7 Jadon **SANCHO** (Eng) (18) 25.03.00
33 Julian **WEIGL** (23) 08.09.95
28 Axel **WITSEL** (Blg) (29) 12.01.89

FORWARDS
9 Paco **ALCACER** (Spa) (25) 30.08.93
34 Jacob **BRUUN LARSEN** (Den) (20 19.09.98
17 Sergio **GOMEZ** (Spa) (18) 04.09.00
14 Alexander **ISAK** (Swe) (19) 21.09.99
20 Maximilian **PHILIPP** (24) 01.03.94
11 Marco **REUS** (29) 31.05.89
27 Marius **WOLF** (23) 27.05.95

COACH
Lucien **FAVRE** (Swi) (61) 02.11.57

Good start ...Christian Pulisic

B MONCHENGLADBACH

GOALKEEPERS
35 Moritz **NICOLAS** (21) 21.10.97
21 Tobias **SIPPEL** (30) 22.03.88
1 Yann **SOMMER** (Swi) (29) 17.12.88

DEFENDERS
38 Marcel **BENGER** (20) 02.07.98
15 Louis **BEYER** (18) 19.05.00
29 Mamadou **DOUCOURE** (Fra) (20) 21.05.98
2 Mandela **EGBO** (Eng) (21) 17.08.97
30 Nico **ELVEDI** (Swi) (22) 30.09.96
28 Matthias **GINTER** (24) 19.01.94
24 Tony **JANTSCHKE** (28) 07.04.90
3 Michael **LANG** (Swi) (27) 08.02.91
42 Florian **MAYER** (20) 04.03.98
40 Andreas **POULSEN** (Den) (19) 13.10.99
17 Oscar **WENDT** (Swe) (32) 24.10.85

MIDFIELDERS
22 Laszlo **BENES** (Slk) (21) 09.09.97
27 Mickael **CUISANCE** (Fra) (19) 16.08.99
23 Jonas **HOFMANN** (26) 14.07.92
19 Fabian **JOHNSON** (USA) (30) 11.12.87
6 Christoph **KRAMER** (27) 19.02.91
32 Florian **NEUHAUS** (21) 16.03.97
5 Tobias **STROBL** (28) 12.05.90
8 Denis **ZAKARIA** (Swi) (21) 20.11.96

FORWARDS
37 Keanan **BENNETTS** (Eng) (19) 09.03.99
18 Josip **DRMIC** (Swi) (26) 08.08.92
10 Thorgan **HAZARD** (Blg) (25) 29.03.93
7 Patrick **HERRMANN** (27) 12.02.91
26 Torben **MUSEL** (19) 25.07.99
14 Alassane **PLEA** (Fra) (25) 10.03.93
11 **RAFFAEL** (Bra) (33) 28.03.85
13 Lars **STINDL** (30) 26.08.88
16 Ibrahima **TRAORE** (Gui) (30) 21.04.88
20 Julio **VILLALBA** (Par) (20) 11.09.98

COACH
Dieter **HECKING** (54) 12.09.64

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT

GOALKEEPERS
1 Frederik **RONNOW** (Den) (26) 04.08.92
41 Tobias **STIRL** (18) 17.04.00
31 Kevin **TRAPP** (28) 08.07.90
29 Felix **WIEDWALD** (28) 15.03.90
37 Jan **ZIMMERMANN** (33) 19.04.85

DEFENDERS
19 David **ABRAHAM** (Arg) (32) 16.07.86
26 Deji-Ousman **BEYREUTHER** (19) 06.09.99
22 Timmy **CHANDLER** (USA) (28) 29.03.90
24 Danny **DA COSTA** (25) 13.07.93
3 Simon **FALETTE** (Fra) (26) 19.02.92
25 Patrice **KABUYA** (18) 07.01.00
35 Noel **KNOTHE** (19) 05.05.99
2 Evan **N'DICKA** (Fra) (19) 20.08.99
23 Marco **RUSS** (33) 04.08.85
13 Carlos **SALCEDO** (Mex) (25) 29.09.93
33 Taleb **TAWATHA** (Isr) (26) 21.06.92
15 Jetro **WILLEMS** (Hol) (24) 30.03.94

MIDFIELDERS
28 **ALLAN** Souza (Bra) (21) 03.03.97
30 Sahverdi **CETIN** (18) 28.09.00
6 Jonathan **DE GUZMAN** (Hol) (31) 13.09.87
7 Marco **FABIAN** (Mex) (29) 21.07.89
5 Gelson **FERNANDES** (Swi) (32) 02.09.86
11 Mijat **GACINOVIC** (Bos) (23) 08.02.95
18 Francisco **GERALDES** (Por) (23) 18.04.95
20 Makoto **HASEBE** (Jap) (34) 18.01.84
36 Mischa **HAUSER** (18) 23.01.00
10 Filip **KOSTIC** (Ser) (25) 01.11.92
27 Nicolai **MULLER** (31) 25.09.87
21 Marc **STENDERA** (22) 10.12.95
16 Lucas **TORRO** (Spa) (24) 19.07.94

FORWARDS
9 Sebastien **HALLER** (Fra) (24) 22.06.94
34 Branimir **HRGOTA** (Swe) (25) 12.01.93
8 Luka **JOVIC** (Ser) (20) 23.12.97
32 Nelson **MBOUHOM** (Cam) (19) 04.05.99
39 Goncalo **PACIENCIA** (Por) (24) 01.08.94
4 Ante **REBIC** (Cro) (25) 21.09.93

COACH
Adi **HUTTER** (Aut) (48) 11.02.70

FORTUNA DUSSELDORF

GOALKEEPERS
1 Michael **RENSING** (34) 14.05.84
12 Jannick **THEISSEN** (20) 07.01.98
38 Tim **WIESNER** (21) 21.11.96
30 Raphael **WOLF** (30) 06.06.88

DEFENDERS
5 Kaan **AYHAN** (Tur) (23) 10.11.94
13 Adam **BODZEK** (Pol) (33) 07.09.85
32 Robin **BORMUTH** (23) 18.09.95
26 Diego **CONTENTO** (28) 01.05.90
23 Niko **GIESSELMANN** (27) 26.09.91
18 Gokhan **GUL** (20) 17.07.98
3 Andre **HOFFMANN** (25) 28.02.93
35 Marcin **KAMINSKI** (Pol) (26) 15.01.92
24 Georgios **SIADAS** (18) 27.12.99

MIDFIELDERS
8 Aymen **BARKOK** (20) 21.05.98
27 Taylan **DUMAN** (21) 30.07.97
7 Oliver **FINK** (36) 06.06.82
40 Kianz **FROESE** (Can) (22) 16.04.96
19 Davor **LOVREN** (Cro) (20) 03.10.98
20 Dodi **LUKEBAKIO** (Blg) (21) 24.09.97
6 Alfredo **MORALES** (USA) (28) 12.05.90
22 Kevin **STOGER** (Aut) (25) 27.08.93
31 Marcel **SOBOTTKA** (24) 25.04.94
33 Takashi **USAMI** (Jap) (26) 06.05.92
39 Jean **ZIMMER** (24) 06.12.93
25 Matthias **ZIMMERMANN** (26) 16.06.92

FORWARDS
10 Marvin **DUCKSCH** (24) 07.03.94
28 Rouwen **HENNINGS** (31) 28.08.87
11 Kenan **KARAMAN** (Tur) (24) 05.03.94
21 Emir **KUJOVIC** (Swe) (30) 22.06.88
16 Havard **NIELSEN** (Nor) (25) 15.07.93
9 Benito **RAMAN** (Blg) (23) 07.11.94

COACH
Friedhelm **FUNKEL** (64) 10.12.53

FREIBURG

GOALKEEPERS
26 Mark **FLEKKEN** (Hol) (25) 13.06.93
37 Constantin **FROMMANN** (20) 27.05.98
1 Alexander **SCHWOLOW** (25) 02.06.92

DEFENDERS
5 Manuel **GULDE** (27) 12.02.91
30 Christian **GUNTER** (25) 28.02.93
23 Dominique **HEINTZ** (25) 15.08.93
14 Patrick **KAMMERBAUER** (21) 11.02.97
25 Robin **KOCH** (22) 17.07.96
17 Lukas **KUBLER** (26) 30.08.92
3 Philipp **LIENHART** (Aut) (22) 11.07.96
36 Chima **OKOROJI** (Eng) (21) 19.04.97
31 Keven **SCHLOTTERBECK** (21) 28.04.97
15 Pascal **STENZEL** (22) 20.03.96

MIDFIELDERS
6 Amir **ABRASHI** (Alb) (28) 27.03.90
8 Mike **FRANTZ** (32) 14.10.86
20 Jerome **GONDORF** (30) 26.06.88
19 Janik **HABERER** (24) 02.04.94
27 Nicolas **HOFLER** (28) 09.03.90
38 Florian **KATH** (24) 21.10.94
16 Yoric **RAVET** (Fra) (29) 12.09.89
22 Roland **SALLAI** (Hun) (21) 22.05.97
33 Caleb **STANKO** (USA) (25) 23.07.93

FORWARDS
21 Brandon **BORRELLO** (Aus) (23) 25.07.95
9 Lucas **HOLER** (24) 10.07.94
34 Tim **KLEINDIENST** (23) 31.08.95
7 Florian **NIEDERLECHNER** (28) 24.10.90
18 Nils **PETERSEN** (29) 06.12.88
13 Marco **TERRAZZINO** (27) 15.04.91
11 Luca **WALDSCHMIDT** (22) 19.05.96

COACH
Christian **STREICH** (53) 11.06.65

HANOVER

GOALKEEPERS
23 Michael **ESSER** (30) 22.11.87
1 Philipp **TSCHAUNER** (33) 03.11.85
30 Leo **WEINKAUF** (22) 07.07.96

DEFENDERS
3 Miiko **ALBORNOZ** (Chl) (27) 30.11.90
31 Waldemar **ANTON** (22) 20.07.96
2 Josip **ELEZ** (Cro) (24) 25.04.94
5 **FELIPE** (Bra) (31) 15.05.87
15 Timo **HUBERS** (22) 20.07.96
4 Julian **KORB** (26) 21.03.92
22 Matthias **OSTRZOLEK** (28) 05.06.90
25 Oliver **SORG** (28) 29.05.90
28 Kevin **WIMMER** (Aut) (25) 15.11.92

MIDFIELDERS
6 Marvin **BAKALORZ** (29) 13.09.89
38 Tom **BALLER** (20) 02.08.98
32 Mete Kaan **DEMIR** (Tur) (30) 13.05.98
39 Yousef **EMGHAMES** (20) 19.01.98
18 Iver **FOSSUM** (Nor) (22) 15.07.96
10 Genki **HARAGUCHI** (Jap) (27) 09.05.91
40 Linton **MAINA** (19) 23.06.99
35 Florent **MUSLIJA** (20) 06.06.98
7 Edgar **PRIB** (28) 15.12.89
37 Noah-Joel **SARENREN-BAZEE** (Nga) (22) 21.08.96
27 Pirmin **SCHWEGLER** (Swi) (31) 09.03.87
8 **WALACE** (Bra) (23) 04.04.95
26 Hendrik **WEYDANDT** (23) 16.07.95

FORWARDS
11 Takuma **ASANO** (Jap) (23) 10.11.94
13 Ihlas **BEBOU** (Tog) (24) 23.04.94
24 Niclas **FULLKRUG** (25) 09.02.93
17 Bobby **WOOD** (USA) (25) 15.11.92

COACH
Andre **BREITENREITER** (45) 02.10.73

HERTHA BERLIN

GOALKEEPERS
35 Marius **GERSBECK** (23) 20.06.95
22 Rune **JARSTEIN** (Nor) (35) 29.09.84
33 Jonathan **KLINSMANN** (USA) (21) 08.04.97
1 Thomas **KRAFT** (30) 22.07.88
12 Dennis **SMARSCH** (19) 14.01.99

DEFENDERS
29 Florian **BAAK** (19) 18.03.99
13 Lukas **KLUNTER** (22) 26.05.96
31 Derrick **LUCKASSEN** (Hol) (23) 03.07.95
17 Maximilian **MITTELSTADT** (21) 18.03.97
2 Peter **PEKARIK** (Slk) (32) 30.10.86
21 Marvin **PLATTENHARDT** (26) 26.01.92
4 Karim **REKIK** (Hol) (23) 02.12.94
5 Niklas **STARK** (23) 14.04.95
25 Jordan **TORUNARIGHA** (21) 07.08.97

MIDFIELDERS
34 Maurice **COVIC** (20) 17.04.98
6 Vladimir **DARIDA** (CzR) (28) 08.08.90
10 Ondrej **DUDA** (Slk) (23) 15.12.94
7 Alexander **ESSWEIN** (28) 25.03.90
26 Sidney **FRIEDE** (20) 12.04.98
15 Marko **GRUJIC** (Ser) (22) 13.04.96
30 Julius **KADE** (19) 20.05.99
18 Sinan **KURT** (22) 23.07.96
20 Valentino **LAZARO** (Aut) (22) 24.03.96
11 Mathew **LECKIE** (Aus) (27) 04.02.91
28 Fabian **LUSTENBERGER** (Swi) (30) 02.05.88
23 Arne **MAIER** (19) 08.01.99
3 Per Ciljan **SKJELBREID** (Nor) (31) 16.06.87

FORWARDS
24 Palko **DARDAI** (19) 24.04.99
16 Javairo **DILROSUN** (Hol) (20) 22.06.98
19 Vedad **IBISEVIC** (Bos) (34) 06.08.84
32 Dennis **JASTRZEMBSKI** (18) 20.02.00
8 Salomon **KALOU** (IvC) (33) 05.08.85
36 Muhammed **KIPRIT** (19) 09.07.99
14 Pascal **KOPKE** (23) 03.09.95
27 Davie **SELKE** (23) 20.01.95

COACH
Pal **DARDAI** (Hun) (42) 16.03.76

HOFFENHEIM

GOALKEEPERS
1 Oliver **BAUMANN** (28) 02.06.90
36 Gregor **KOBEL** (Swi) (20) 06.12.97
33 Alexander **STOLZ** (35) 13.10.83

DEFENDERS
25 Kevin **AKPOGUMA** (23) 19.04.95
41 Alfons **AMADE** (18) 12.11.99
4 Ermin **BICAKCIC** (Bos) (28) 24.01.90
2 Joshua **BRENET** (24) 20.03.94
24 Justin **HOOGMA** (Hol) (20) 11.06.98
21 Benjamin **HUBNER** (29) 04.07.89
3 Pavel **KADERABEK** (CzR) (26) 25.04.92
6 Havard **NORDTVEIT** (Nor) (28) 21.06.90
15 Kasim **NUHU** (Gha) (23) 22.06.95
38 Stefan **POSCH** (Aut) (21) 14.05.97
22 Kevin **VOGT** (27) 23.09.91

MIDFIELDERS
18 Nadiem **AMIRI** (22) 27.10.96
42 Christoph **BAUMGARTNER** (Aut) (19) 01.08.99
13 Leonardo **BITTENCOURT** (24) 19.12.93
10 Kerem **DEMIRBAY** (Tur) (25) 03.07.93
8 Dennis **GEIGER** (20) 10.06.98
32 Vincenzo **GRIFO** (Ita) (25) 07.04.93
11 Florian **GRILLITSCH** (Aut) (23) 07.08.95
37 Robin **HACK** (20) 27.08.98
7 Lukas **RUPP** (27) 08.01.91
16 Nico **SCHULZ** (25) 01.04.93
17 Steven **ZUBER** (Swi) (27) 17.08.91

FORWARDS
19 Ishak **BELFODIL** (Alg) (26) 12.01.92
27 Andrej **KRAMARIC** (Cro) (27) 19.06.91
34 **JOELINTON** (Bra) (22) 14.08.96
9 Reiss **NELSON** (Eng) (18) 10.12.99
26 David **OTTO** (19) 03.03.99
23 Felipe **PIRES** (Bra) (23) 18.04.95
28 Adam **SZALAI** (Hun) (30) 09.12.87

COACH
Julian **NAGELSMANN** (31) 23.07.87

MAINZ

GOALKEEPERS
1 Rene **ADLER** (33) 15.01.85
37 Finn **DAHMEN** (20) 27.03.98
33 Jannik **HUTH** (24) 15.04.94
22 Florian **MULLER** (20) 13.11.97
27 Robin **ZENTNER** (23) 28.10.94

DEFENDERS
16 Stefan **BELL** (27) 24.08.91
18 Daniel **BROSINSKI** (30) 17.07.88
26 Niko **BUNGERT** (32) 24.10.86
24 Gaetan **BUSSMANN** (Fra) (27) 02.02.91
2 Giulio **DONATI** (Ita) (28) 05.02.90
31 Ahmet **GURLEYEN** (19) 26.04.99
42 Alexander **HACK** (25) 08.09.93
3 Aaron **MARTIN** (Spa) (21) 22.04.97
23 Phillipp **MWENE** (Aut) (24) 29.01.94
19 Moussa **NIAKHATE** (Fra) (22) 08.03.96

MIDFIELDERS
34 Bote **BAKU** (20) 08.04.98
35 Leandro **BARREIRO** (Lux) (18) 03.01.00
25 Jean-Philippe **GBAMIN** (IvC) (23) 25.05.95
38 Gerrit **HOLTMANN** (23) 25.03.95
14 Pierre Kunde **MALONG** (Cam) (23) 26.07.95
6 Danny **LATZA** (28) 07.12.89
10 Alexandru **MAXIM** (Rom) (28) 08.07.90
8 Levin **OZTUNALI** (22) 15.03.96

FORWARDS
28 Issah **ABASS** (Gha) (20) 26.09.98
11 Emil **BERGGREEN** (Den) (25) 10.05.93
5 Jean-Paul **BOETIUS** (Hol) (24) 22.03.94
29 Jonathan **BURKARDT** (18) 01.07.00
9 Jean-Philippe **MATETA** (Fra) (21) 28.06.97
21 Karim **ONISIWO** (Aut) (26) 17.03.92
7 Robin **QUAISON** (Swe) (25) 09.10.93
20 Anthony **UJAH** (Nga) (28) 14.10.90

COACH
Sandro **SCHWARZ** (40) 17.10.78

NUREMBERG

GOALKEEPERS
1 Fabian **BREDLOW** (23) 02.03.95
30 Patric **KLANDT** (35) 29.09.83
26 Christian **MATHENIA** (26) 31.03.92

DEFENDERS
8 Robert **BAUER** (23) 09.04.95
4 **EWERTON** (Bra) (29) 23.03.89
2 Kevin **GODEN** (19) 22.02.99
23 Tim **LEIBOLD** (24) 30.11.93
34 Dennis **LIPPERT** (22) 20.02.96
33 Georg **MARGREITTER** (Aut) (29) 07.11.88
28 Lukas **MUHL** (21) 27.01.97
22 Enrico **VALENTINI** (29) 20.02.89

MIDFIELDERS
18 Hanno **BEHRENS** (28) 26.03.90
29 Patrick **ERRAS** (23) 21.01.95
35 Alexander **FUCHS** (21) 05.01.97
20 Lukas **JAGER** (Aut) (24) 12.02.94
10 Sebastian **KERK** (24) 17.04.94
17 Eduard **LOWEN** (21) 28.01.97
31 Ondrej **PETRAK** (CzR) (26) 11.03.92
37 Timothy **TILLMAN** (USA) (19) 04.01.99

FORWARDS
9 Mikael **ISHAK** (Swe) (25) 31.03.93
14 Yuya **KUBO** (Jap) (24) 24.12.93
19 Torles **KNOLL** (21) 13.09.97
24 Virgil **MISIDJAN** (Hol) (25) 24.07.93
21 Federico **PALACIOS** (23) 09.04.95
27 Matheus **PEREIRA** (Bra) (22) 05.05.96
7 Edgar **SALLI** (Cam) (26) 17.08.92
11 Adam **ZREL'AK** (Slk) (24) 05.05.94

COACH
Michael **KOLLNER** (48) 29.12.69

RB LEIPZIG

GOALKEEPERS
1 Peter **GULACSI** (Hun) (28) 06.05.90
32 Julian **KRAHL** (18) 22.01.00
21 Marius **MULLER** (25) 12.07.93
28 Yvon **MVOGO** (Swi) (24) 06.06.94

DEFENDERS
23 Marcel **HALSTENBERG** (27) 27.09.91
16 Lukas **KLOSTERMANN** (22) 03.06.96
6 Ibrahima **KONATE** (Fra) (19) 25.05.99
22 Nordi **MUKIELE** (Fra) (21) 01.11.97
33 Atınc **NUKAN** (Tur) (25) 20.07.93
4 Willi **ORBAN** (Hun) (26) 03.11.92
5 Dayot **UPAMECANO** (Fra) (20) 27.10.98

MIDFIELDERS
41 Oliver **BIAS** (17) 15.06.01
17 **BRUMA** (Por) (24) 24.10.94
31 Diego **DEMME** (26) 21.11.91
10 Emil **FORSBERG** (Swe) (27) 23.10.91
13 Stefan **ILSANKER** (Aut) (29) 18.05.89
44 Kevin **KAMPL** (Sln) (28) 09.10.90
27 Konrad **LAIMER** (Aut) (21) 27.05.97
40 Erik **MAJETSCHAK** (18) 01.03.00
7 Marcel **SABITZER** (Aut) (24) 17.03.94
3 Marcelo **SARACCHI** (Uru) (20) 23.04.98
26 Niclas **STIERLIN** (18) 22.01.00

FORWARDS
29 Jean-Kevin **AUGUSTIN** (Fra) (21) 16.06.97
20 Matheus **CUNHA** (Bra) (19) 27.05.99
39 Fabrice **HARTMANN** (17) 02.03.01
38 Lukas **KRUGER** (18) 20.01.00
9 Yussuf **POULSEN** (Den) (24) 15.06.94
11 Timo **WERNER** (22) 06.03.96

COACH
Ralf **RANGNICK** (60) 29.06.58

SCHALKE

GOALKEEPERS
1 Ralf **FAHRMANN** (30) 27.09.88
34 Michael **LANGER** (Aut) (33) 06.01.85
35 Alexander **NUBEL** (22) 30.09.96

DEFENDERS
3 Hamza **MENDYL** (Mor) (21) 21.10.97
29 **NALDO** (Bra) (36) 10.09.82
5 Matija **NASTASIC** (Ser) (25) 28.03.93
24 Bastian **OCZIPKA** (29) 12.01.89
14 Baba **RAHMAN** (Gha) (24) 02.07.94
21 Sascha **RIETHER** (35) 23.03.83
26 Salif **SANE** (Sen) (28) 25.08.90
17 Benjamin **STAMBOULI** (Fra) (28) 13.08.90

MIDFIELDERS
10 Nabil **BENTALEB** (Alg) (23) 24.11.94
18 Daniel **CALIGIURI** (Ita) (30) 15.01.88
16 Johannes **GEIS** (25) 17.08.93
25 Amine **HARIT** (Mor) (21) 18.06.97
11 Yevhen **KONOPLYANKA** (Ukr) (29) 29.09.89
6 Omar **MASCARELL** (Spa) (25) 02.02.93
2 Weston **McKENNIE** (USA) (20) 28.08.98
13 Sebastian **RUDY** (28) 28.02.90
28 Alessandro **SCHOPF** (Aut) (24) 07.02.94
8 Suat **SERDAR** (21) 11.04.97

FORWARDS
19 Guido **BURGSTALLER** (Aut) (29) 29.04.89
9 Franco **DI SANTO** (Arg) (29) 07.04.89
36 Breel **EMBOLO** (Swi) (21) 14.02.97
22 Steven **SKRZYBSKI** (25) 18.11.92
23 Cedric **TEUCHERT** (21) 14.01.97
7 Mark **UTH** (27) 24.08.91

COACH
Domenico **TEDESCO** (33) 12.09.85

Choice...Daniel Caligiuri was born in Germany and has an Italian father

STUTTGART

GOALKEEPERS
13 Jens **GRAHL** (30) 22.09.88
26 Alexander **MEYER** (27) 13.04.91
1 Ron-Robert **ZIELER** (29) 12.02.89

DEFENDERS
3 Dennis **AOGO** (31) 14.01.87
28 Holger **BADSTUBER** (29) 13.03.89
5 Timo **BAUMGARTL** (22) 04.03.96
32 Andreas **BECK** (31) 13.03.87
2 Emiliano **INSUA** (Arg) (29) 07.01.89
4 Marc-Oliver **KEMPF** (23) 28.01.95
7 Pablo **MAFFEO** (Spa) (21) 12.07.97
21 Benjamin **PAVARD** (Fra) (22) 28.03.96
24 Borna **SOSA** (Cro) (20) 21.01.98

MIDFIELDERS
19 Chadrac **AKOLO** (DRC) (23) 01.04.95
6 Santiago **ASCACIBAR** (Arg) (21) 25.02.97
8 Gonzalo **CASTRO** (31) 11.06.87
10 Daniel **DIDAVI** (28) 21.02.90
20 Christian **GENTNER** (33) 14.08.85
29 David **KOPACZ** (19) 29.05.99
31 Berkay **OZCAN** (Tur) (20) 15.02.98
36 Hans Nunoo **SARPEI** (Gha) (20) 22.08.98
17 Erik **THOMMY** (24) 20.08.94

FORWARDS
11 Anastasios **DONIS** (Gre) (22) 29.08.96
27 Mario **GOMEZ** (33) 10.07.85
22 Nicolas **GONZALEZ** (Arg) (20) 06.04.98

COACH
Markus **WEINZIERL** (43) 29.12.74

WERDER BREMEN

GOALKEEPERS
33 Jaroslav **DROBNY** (CzR) (38) 18.10.79
27 Stefanos **KAPINO** (Gre) (24) 18.03.94
1 Jir **PAVLENKA** (CzR) (26) 14.03.92
40 Luca **PLOGMANN** (18) 10.03.00
16 Michael **ZETTERER** (23) 12.07.95

DEFENDERS
5 Ludwig **AUGUSTINSSON** (Swe) (24) 21.04.94
2 Felix **BEIJMO** (Swe) (20) 31.01.98
39 Jan-Niklas **BESTE** (19) 04.01.99
32 Marco **FRIEDL** (Aut) (20) 16.03.98
23 Theodor **GEBRE SELASSIE** (CzR) (31) 24.12.86
15 Sebastian **LANGKAMP** (30) 15.01.88
18 Niklas **MOISANDER** (Fin) (33) 29.09.85
13 Milos **VELJKOVIC** (Ser) (23) 26.09.95

MIDFIELDERS
44 Philipp **BARGFREDE** (29) 03.03.89
22 Fin **BARTELS** (31) 07.02.87
35 Maximilian **EGGESTEIN** (21) 08.12.96
36 Thore **JACOBSEN** (21) 19.04.97
7 Florian **KAINZ** (Aut) (25) 24.10.92
14 Ole **KAUPER** (21) 09.01.97
30 Davy **KLAASSEN** (Hol) (25) 21.02.93
34 Jean-Manuel **MBOM** (18) 24.02.00
6 Kevin **MOHWALD** (25) 03.07.93
11 Milot **RASHICA** (Kos) (22) 28.06.96
17 Nuri **SAHIN** (Tur) (30) 05.09.88

FORWARDS
24 Johannes **EGGESTEIN** (20) 08.05.98
9 Martin **HARNIK** (Aut) (31) 10.06.87
20 Aron **JOHANNSSON** (USA) (27) 10.11.90
10 Max **KRUSE** (30) 19.03.88
8 Yuya **OSAKO** (Jap) (28) 18.05.90
4 Claudio **PIZARRO** (Per) (40) 03.10.78
19 Josh **SARGENT** (USA) (18) 20.02.00

COACH
Florian **KOHFELDT** (36) 05.10.82

WOLFSBURG

GOALKEEPERS
1 Koen **CASTEELS** (Blg) (26) 25.06.92
36 Phillip **MENZEL** (20) 18.08.98
12 Pavao **PERVAN** (Aut) (30) 13.11.87

DEFENDERS
25 John **BROOKS** (USA) (25) 28.01.93
5 Jeffrey **BRUMA** (Hol) (26) 13.11.91
13 Yannick **GERHARDT** (24) 13.03.94
35 Gian-Luca **ITTER** (19) 05.01.99
24 Sebastian **JUNG** (28) 22.06.90
31 Robin **KNOCHE** (26) 22.05.92
15 Jerome **ROUSSILLON** (Fra) (25) 06.01.93
32 Marcel **TISSERAND** (DRC) (25) 10.01.93
17 Ohis Felix **UDUOKHAI** (21) 09.09.97
3 Paul **VERHAEGH** (Hol) (35) 01.09.83
2 **WILLIAM** (Bra) (23) 03.04.95

MIDFIELDERS
27 Maximilian **ARNOLD** (24) 27.05.94
38 Ismail **AZZAOUI** (Blg) (20) 06.01.98
16 Jakub **BLASZCZYKOWSKI** (Pol) (32) 14.12.85
7 Josip **BREKALO** (Cro) (20) 23.06.98
4 Ignacio **CAMACHO** (Spa) (28) 04.05.90
23 Josuha **GUILAVOGUI** (Fra) (28) 19.09.90
11 Felix **KLAUS** (26) 13.09.92
10 Yunus **MALLI** (Tur) (26) 24.02.92
14 Admir **MEHMEDI** (Swi) (27) 16.03.91
21 Paul-Georges **NTEP** (Cam) (26) 29.07.92
37 Elvis **REXHBECAJ** (21) 01.11.97
30 Paul **SEGUIN** (23) 29.03.95
34 Marvin **STEFANIAK** (23) 03.02.95
8 Renato **STEFFEN** (Swi) (26) 03.11.91

FORWARDS
33 Daniel **GINCZEK** (27) 13.04.91
9 Wout **WEGHORST** (Hol) (26) 07.08.92

COACH
Bruno **LABBADIA** (52) 08.02.66

(ages as of 02.11.18)

SPAIN: LA LIGA 2018-19

ALAVES

GOALKEEPERS

25	Alex **DOMINGUEZ**	(20) 30.07.98
1	Fernando **PACHECO**	(26) 18.05.92
13	Antonio **SIVERA**	(22) 11.08.96

DEFENDERS

26	Adrian **DIEGUEZ**	(22) 04.02.96
3	Ruben **DUARTE**	(23) 18.10.95
4	Rodrigo **ELY** (Bra)	(24) 03.11.93
5	Victor **LAGUARDIA**	(28) 05.11.89
17	Adrian **MARIN**	(21) 09.01.97
6	Guillermo **MARIPAN** (Chl)	(24) 06.05.94
21	**MARTIN** Aguirregabiria	(22) 10.05.96
15	Ximo **NAVARRO**	(28) 23.01.90
2	Carlos **VIGARAY**	(24) 07.09.94

MIDFIELDERS

20	Darko **BRASANAC** (Ser)	(26) 12.02.92
14	**BURGUI**	(25) 29.10.93
19	Manu **GARCIA**	(32) 26.04.86
11	**IBAI** Gomez	(28) 11.11.89
23	**JONY** Rodriguez	(27) 09.07.91
27	Antonio **PERERA**	(21) 08.06.97
8	Tomas **PINA**	(31) 14.10.87
16	Daniel **TORRES** (Col)	(28) 15.11.89
22	Mubarak **WAKASO** (Gha)	(28) 25.07.90

FORWARDS

18	**BORJA** Baston	(26) 25.08.92
12	Jonathan **CALLERI** (Arg)	(25) 23.09.93
10	John **GUIDETTI** (Swe)	(26) 15.04.92
7	Ruben **SOBRINO**	(26) 01.06.92
24	Patrick **TWUMASI** (Gha)	(24) 09.05.94

COACH

ABELARDO		(48) 19.04.70

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS

13	Iago **HERRERIN**	(30) 25.01.88
26	Hodei **OLEAGA**	(21) 29.12.96
1	Alex **REMIRO**	(23) 24.03.95
25	Unai **SIMON**	(21) 11.06.97

DEFENDERS

24	Mikel **BALENZIAGA**	(30) 29.02.88
21	Ander **CAPA**	(26) 14.05.92
18	Oscar **DE MARCOS**	(29) 14.04.89
2	Cristian **GANEA** (Rom)	(26) 24.05.92
4	Inigo **MARTINEZ**	(27) 17.05.91
3	Unai **NUNEZ**	(21) 30.01.97
15	Inigo **LEKUE**	(25) 04.05.93
5	**YERAY** Alvarez	(23) 24.01.95
12	**YURI** Berchiche	(28) 10.02.90

MIDFIELDERS

7	**BENAT**	(31) 19.02.87
11	Inigo **CORDOBA**	(21) 13.03.97
16	Dani **GARCIA**	(28) 24.05.90
22	Raul **GARCIA**	(32) 11.07.86
8	Ander **ITURRASPE**	(29) 08.03.89
23	Unai **LOPEZ**	(23) 30.10.95
31	Peru **NOLASKOAIN**	(20) 25.10.98
17	Mikel **RICO**	(34) 01.11.84
6	Mikel **SAN JOSE**	(29) 30.05.89
14	Markel **SUSAETA**	(30) 14.12.87

FORWARDS

20	Aritz **ADURIZ**	(37) 11.02.81
30	Gorka **GURUZETA**	(22) 12.09.96
10	Iker **MUNIAIN**	(25) 19.12.92
9	Inaki **WILLIAMS**	(24) 15.06.94

COACH

Eduardo **BERIZZO** (Arg)		(48) 13.11.69

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS

1	Antonio **ADAN**	(31) 13.05.87
13	Jan **OBLAK** (Sln)	(25) 07.01.93
25	Alex **DOS SANTOS** (Bra)	(19) 15.01.99

DEFENDERS

4	Santiago **ARIAS** (Col)	(26) 13.01.92
3	**FILIPE LUIS** (Bra)	(33) 09.08.85
24	Jose **GIMENEZ** (Uru)	(23) 20.01.95
2	Diego **GODIN** (Uru)	(32) 16.02.86
21	Lucas **HERNANDEZ** (Fra)	(22) 14.02.96
38	**CARLOS ISAAC** Munoz	(20) 30.04.98
20	**JUANFRAN**	(33) 09.01.85
35	Fran **MONTERO**	(19) 14.01.99
15	Stefan **SAVIC** (Mne)	(27) 08.01.91
33	Andres **SOLANO** (Col)	(20) 24.02.98

MIDFIELDERS

6	**KOKE**	(26) 08.01.92
11	Thomas **LEMAR** (Fra)	(22) 12.11.95
5	Thomas **PARTEY** (Gha)	(25) 13.07.93
14	**RODRI** Hernandez	(22) 22.06.96
8	**SAUL** Niguez	(23) 21.11.94
23	**VITOLO**	(29) 02.11.89

FORWARDS

10	Angel **CORREA** (Arg)	(23) 09.03.95
19	Diego **COSTA** (Spa)	(30) 07.10.88
32	Borja **GARCES**	(19) 06.08.99
7	Antoine **GRIEZMANN** (Fra)	(27) 21.03.91
9	Nikola **KALINIC** (Cro)	(30) 05.01.88
18	Gelson **MARTINS** (Por)	(23) 11.05.95

COACH

Diego **SIMEONE** (Arg)		(48) 28.04.70

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS

13	Jasper **CILLESSEN** (Hol)	(29) 22.04.89
31	Jokin **EZKIETA**	(22) 17.08.96
1	Marc-Andre **TER STEGEN** (Ger)	(26) 30.04.92

DEFENDERS

18	Jordi **ALBA**	(29) 21.03.89
15	Clement **LENGLET** (Fra)	(23) 17.06.95
3	Gerard **PIQUE**	(31) 02.02.87
20	Sergi **ROBERTO**	(26) 07.02.92
2	Nelson **SEMEDO** (Por)	(24) 16.11.93
23	Samuel **UMTITI** (Fra)	(24) 14.11.93
24	Thomas **VERMAELEN** (Blg)	(32) 14.11.85

MIDFIELDERS

26	Carles **ALENA**	(20) 05.01.98
8	**ARTHUR** (Bra)	(22) 12.08.96
5	Sergio **BUSQUETS**	(30) 16.07.88
7	Philippe **COUTINHO** (Bra)	(26) 12.06.92
12	**RAFINHA** (Bra)	(25) 12.02.93
4	Ivan **RAKITIC** (Cro)	(30) 10.03.88
16	Sergi **SAMPER**	(23) 20.01.95
6	Denis **SUAREZ**	(24) 06.01.94
22	Arturo **VIDAL** (Chl)	(31) 22.05.87

FORWARDS

11	Ousmane **DEMBELE** (Fra)	(21) 15.05.97
14	**MALCOM** (Bra)	(21) 26.02.97
10	Lionel **MESSI** (Arg)	(31) 24.06.87
19	**MUNIR** El Haddadi	(23) 01.09.95
9	Luis **SUAREZ** (Uru)	(31) 24.01.87

COACH

Ernesto **VALVERDE**		(54) 09.02.64

CELTA VIGO

GOALKEEPERS

1	Sergio **ALVAREZ**	(32) 03.08.86
13	Ruben **BLANCO**	(23) 25.07.95
26	Ivan **VILLAR**	(21) 09.07.97

DEFENDERS

25	Junior **ALONSO** (Par)	(25) 09.02.93
4	Nestor **ARAUJO** (Mex)	(27) 29.08.91
3	David **COSTAS**	(23) 26.03.95
22	Gustavo **CABRAL** (Arg)	(33) 14.10.85
17	David **JUNCA**	(24) 16.11.93
2	Hugo **MALLO**	(27) 22.06.91
15	Robert **MAZAN** (Slk)	(24) 09.02.94
24	Facundo **RONCAGLIA** (Arg)	(31) 10.02.87
20	Kevin **VAZQUEZ**	(25) 23.03.93

MIDFIELDERS

8	Fran **BELTRAN**	(19) 03.02.99
19	Sofiane **BOUFAL** (Mor)	(24) 17.09.93
16	Andrew **HJULSAGER** (Den)	(23) 15.01.95
18	Mathias **JENSEN** (Den)	(22) 01.01.96
21	**JOZABED**	(27) 08.03.91
14	Stanislav **LOBOTKA** (Slk)	(23) 25.11.94
23	Brais **MENDEZ**	(21) 07.01.97
6	Nemanja **RADOJA** (Ser)	(25) 06.02.93
5	Okay **YOKUSLU** (Tur)	(24) 09.03.94

FORWARDS

10	Iago **ASPAS**	(31) 11.08.87
32	Dennis **ECKERT** (Ger)	(21) 09.01.97
9	Maxi **GOMEZ** (Uru)	(22) 14.08.96
7	Emre **MOR** (Tur)	(21) 24.07.97
11	Pione **SISTO** (Den)	(23) 04.02.95

COACH

Antonio **MOHAMED** (Arg)		(48) 02.04.70

EIBAR

GOALKEEPERS

1	Marko **DMITROVIC** (Ser)	(26) 24.01.92
13	Asier **RIESGO**	(35) 06.10.83

DEFENDERS

23	Anaitz **ARBILLA**	(31) 15.05.87
3	Pedro **BIGAS**	(28) 15.05.90
2	Jordi **CALAVERA**	(23) 02.08.95
15	**COTE**	(29) 05.09.89
20	Marc **CUCURELLA**	(20) 22.07.98
12	Paulo **OLIVEIRA** (Por)	(26) 08.01.92
4	Ivan **RAMIS**	(34) 25.10.84

MIDFIELDERS

6	Sergio **ALVAREZ**	(26) 23.01.92
16	Pablo **DE BLASIS** (Arg)	(30) 04.02.88
8	Pape **DIOP** (Sen)	(32) 19.03.86
5	Gonzalo **ESCALANTE** (Arg)	(25) 27.03.93
18	Pablo **HERVIAS**	(25) 08.03.93
24	Joan **JORDAN**	(24) 06.07.94
21	Pedro **LEON**	(31) 24.11.86
14	Fabian **ORELLANA** (Chl)	(32) 27.01.86
11	Ruben **PENA**	(27) 18.07.91

FORWARDS

7	Marc **CARDONA**	(23) 08.07.95
19	**CHARLES** (Bra)	(34) 04.04.84
9	Sergi **ENRICH**	(28) 26.02.90
17	**KIKE**	(28) 25.11.89
22	Pere **MILLA**	(26) 23.09.92

COACH

Jose Luis **MENDILIBAR**		(57) 14.03.61

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS

13	Diego **LOPEZ**	(36) 03.11.81
1	**ROBERTO** Jimenez	(32) 10.02.86

DEFENDERS

6	Oscar **DUARTE** (CR)	(29) 03.06.89
22	Mario **HERMOSO**	(23) 18.06.95
15	David **LOPEZ**	(29) 09.10.89
16	Javi **LOPEZ**	(32) 21.01.86
5	**NALDO** (Bra)	(30) 28.08.88
28	Adria **PEDROSA**	(20) 13.05.98
2	**PIPA** Avila	(20) 26.01.98
8	Roberto **ROSALES** (Ven)	(29) 20.11.88
12	Didac **VILA**	(29) 09.06.89

MIDFIELDERS

10	Sergi **DARDER**	(24) 22.12.93
23	Esteban **GRANERO**	(31) 02.07.87
18	Alejandro **LOPEZ**	(21) 02.06.97
14	Oscar **MELENDO**	(21) 23.08.97
19	Pablo **PIATTI** (Arg)	(29) 31.03.89
21	Marc **ROCA**	(21) 26.11.96
4	Victor **SANCHEZ**	(31) 08.09.87

FORWARDS

11	Leo **BAPTISTAO** (Bra)	(26) 26.08.92
9	Sergio **GARCIA**	(35) 09.06.83
7	Borja **IGLESIAS**	(25) 17.01.93
17	Hernan **PEREZ** (Par)	(29) 25.02.89
20	Javi **PUADO**	(20) 25.05.98

COACH

RUBI		(48) 05.02.70

GETAFE

GOALKEEPERS

1	Leandro **CHICHIZOLA** (Arg)	(28) 27.03.90
13	David **SORIA**	(25) 04.04.93
25	Ruben **YANEZ**	(25) 12.10.93

DEFENDERS

3	Vitorino **ANTUNES** (Por)	(31) 01.04.87
4	**BRUNO** Gonzalez	(28) 24.05.90
6	Leandro **CABRERA** (Uru)	(27) 17.06.91
2	Djene **DAKONAM** (Tog)	(26) 31.12.91
24	Dimitri **FOULQUIER** (Fra)	(25) 23.03.93
21	Ignasi **MIQUEL**	(26) 28.09.92
22	Damian **SUAREZ** (Uru)	(30) 27.04.88

MIDFIELDERS

23	Ivan **ALEJO**	(23) 10.02.95
18	Mauro **ARAMBARRI** (Uru)	(23) 30.09.95
5	Markel **BERGARA**	(32) 05.05.86
15	Sebastian **CRISTOFORO** (Uru)	(25) 23.08.93
17	Robert **IBANEZ**	(25) 22.03.93
20	Nemanja **MAKSIMOVIC** (Ser)	(23) 26.01.95
8	Francisco **PORTILLO**	(28) 13.06.90
10	Gaku **SHIBASAKI** (Jap)	(26) 28.05.92

FORWARDS

9	**ANGEL**	(31) 26.04.87
27	Hugo **DURO**	(18) 10.11.99
14	Sergi **GUARDIOLA**	(27) 29.05.91
7	Jaime **MATA**	(30) 24.10.88
19	Jorge **MOLINA**	(36) 22.04.82
11	Amath **NDIAYE** (Sen)	(22) 16.07.96

COACH

Jose **BORDALAS**		(54) 05.03.64

GIRONA

GOALKEEPERS

13	Yassine **BOUNOU** (Mor)	(27) 05.04.91
1	Gorka **IRAIZOZ**	(37) 06.03.81
30	**JOSE AURELIO** Suarez	(22) 18.12.95
36	Marc **VITO**	(22) 10.03.96

DEFENDERS

5	Pedro **ALCALA**	(29) 19.03.89
2	Bernardo **ESPINOSA** (Col)	(29) 11.07.89
15	**JUANPE**	(27) 30.04.91
3	Johan **MOJICA** (Col)	(26) 21.08.92
28	Eric **MONTES**	(20) 17.04.98
20	Marc **MUNIESA**	(26) 27.03.92
21	Carles **PLANAS**	(27) 04.03.91
4	Jonas **RAMALHO**	(25) 10.06.93

MIDFIELDERS

11	**ADAY** Benltez	(30) 16.12.87
12	**DOUGLAS LUIZ** (Bra)	(20) 09.05.98
23	Aleix **GARCIA**	(21) 28.06.97
10	Borja **GARCIA**	(28) 02.11.90
6	Alex **GRANELL**	(30) 02.08.88
32	**PAIK** Seung-ho (SKo)	(21) 17.03.97
8	Pere **PONS**	(24) 11.12.93
29	Pedro **PORRO**	(19) 13.09.99
9	**PORTU**	(26) 21.05.92
17	Patrick **ROBERTS** (Eng)	(21) 05.02.97
27	Kevin **SONI** (Cam)	(20) 17.04.98

FORWARDS

22	Seydou **DOUMBIA** (IvC)	(30) 31.12.87
19	Anthony **LOZANO** (Hon)	(25) 25.04.93
7	Christian **STUANI** (Uru)	(32) 12.10.86

COACH

Eusebio **SACRISTAN**		(54) 13.04.64

HUESCA

GOALKEEPERS

25	Aleksandar **JOVANOVIC** (Ser)	(25) 06.12.92
13	Roberto **SANTAMARIA**	(33) 27.02.85
1	Axel **WERNER** (Arg)	(22) 28.02.96

DEFENDERS

15	Carlos **AKAPO** (EqG)	(25) 12.03.93
20	Rajko **BREZANCIC** (Ser)	(29) 21.08.89
3	Xabier **ETXEITA**	(31) 31.10.87
18	Pablo **INSUA**	(25) 09.09.93
16	**LUISINHO** (Por)	(33) 05.05.85
24	Jorge **MIRAMON**	(29) 02.06.89
14	Jorge **PULIDO**	(27) 08.04.91
4	Ruben **SEMEDO** (Por)	(24) 04.04.94

MIDFIELDERS

5	Juan **AGUILERA**	(33) 13.09.85
10	Juanjo **CAMACHO**	(38) 02.08.80
7	David **FERREIRO**	(30) 01.04.88
6	Moi **GOMEZ**	(24) 23.06.94
21	Serdar **GURLER** (Tur)	(27) 14.09.91
8	Gonzalo **MELERO**	(24) 02.01.94
23	Damian **MUSTO** (Arg)	(31) 09.06.87
22	Lluis **SASTRE**	(32) 26.03.86

FORWARDS

19	Chimy **AVILA** (Arg)	(24) 06.02.94
11	Alex **GALLAR**	(26) 19.03.92
9	Cucho **HERNANDEZ** (Col)	(19) 22.04.99
12	Samuele **LONGO** (Ita)	(26) 12.01.92

COACH

FRANCISCO Rodriguez		(40) 17.06.78

LEGANES

GOALKEEPERS
1 Ivan **CUELLAR** (34) 27.05.84
29 Andriy **LUNIN** (Ukr) (19) 11.02.99
13 Jon Ander **SERANTES** (29) 24.10.89

DEFENDERS
3 Unai **BUSTINZA** (26) 02.02.92
15 Mauro **DOS SANTOS** (Arg) (29) 07.07.89
14 Raul **GARCIA** (28) 30.11.89
2 **JUANFRAN** (30) 11.09.88
19 Ezequiel **MUNOZ** (Arg) (28) 08.10.90
12 Allan **NYOM** (Cam) (30) 10.05.88
24 Kenneth **OMERUO** (Nga) (25) 17.10.93
5 Jonathan **SILVA** (Arg) (24) 29.06.94
22 Dimitris **SIOVAS** (Gre) (30) 16.09.88
28 Rodrigo **TARIN** (22) 05.07.96

MIDFIELDERS
10 Nabil **EL ZHAR** (Mor) (32) 27.08.86
17 Javier **ERASO** (28) 22.03.90
6 Gerard **GUMBAU** (23) 18.12.94
27 **OSCAR** Rodriguez (20) 28.06.98
21 Ruben **PEREZ** (29) 26.04.89
8 **RECIO** (27) 11.01.91
11 Alexander **SZYMANOWSKI** (Arg) (30) 13.10.88
23 Mikel **VESGA** (25) 21.05.93

FORWARDS
16 Jose **ARNAIZ** (23) 15.04.95
9 Guido **CARRILLO** (Arg) (27) 25.05.91
26 Youssef **EN-NESYRI** (Mor) (21) 01.06.97
18 Sabin **MERINO** (26) 04.01.92
7 Dani **OJEDA** (23) 03.12.94
4 Diego **ROLAN** (Uru) (25) 24.03.93
20 Michael **SANTOS** (Uru) (25) 13.03.93

COACH
Mauricio **PELLEGRINO** (Arg) (47) 05.10.71

LEVANTE

GOALKEEPERS
25 Aitor **FERNANDEZ** (27) 03.05.91
1 **KOKE** Vegas (22) 27.09.95
13 **OIER** Olazabal (28) 14.09.89

DEFENDERS
18 Erick **CABACO** (Uru) (22) 19.04.95
6 **CHEMA** (25) 03.03.92
12 **COKE** (31) 26.04.87
19 Pedro **LOPEZ** (35) 01.11.83
22 Antonio **LUNA** (26) 17.03.91
15 Sergio **POSTIGO** (29) 04.11.88
4 **ROBER** (23) 16.02.95
3 **TONO** (28) 07.11.89

MIDFIELDERS
10 Enis **BARDHI** (Mac) (22) 02.07.95
24 Jose **CAMPANA** (24) 30.05.93
5 Cheick **DOUKOURE** (IvC) (25) 11.09.92
11 Jose Luis **MORALES** (30) 23.07.87
8 Sanjin **PRCIC** (Bos) (24) 20.11.93
16 Ruben **ROCHINA** (27) 23.03.91
14 **SAMU** (27) 13.07.90
17 Nikola **VUKCEVIC** (Mne) (26) 03.12.91

FORWARDS
21 Emmanuel **BOATENG** (Gha) (21) 23.05.96
20 Raphael **DWAMENA** (Gha) (23) 12.09.95
23 **JASON** (24) 06.07.94
2 Borja **MAYORAL** (21) 04.04.97
9 **ROGER** Marti (27) 03.01.91
- Armando **SADIKU** (Alb) (27) 27.05.91
7 Moses **SIMON** (Nga) (23) 12.07.95

COACH
Paco **LOPEZ** (51) 19.09.67

RAYO VALLECANO

GOALKEEPERS
13 Stole **DIMITRIEVSKI** (Mac) (24) 25.12.93
1 Alberto **GARCIA** (33) 09.02.85
30 Miguel **MORRO** (17) 09.11.00

DEFENDERS
17 Luis **ADVINCULA** (Per) (28) 02.03.90
28 Sergio **AKIEME** (EqG) (20) 16.12.97
16 Jordi **AMAT** (26) 16.12.97
21 Abdoulaye **BA** (Sen) (27) 01.01.91
5 Chechu **DORADO** (36) 10.07.82
23 Alex **GALVEZ** (29) 06.06.89
26 Jose **LEON** (23) 03.02.95
31 Martin **PASCUAL** (19) 04.08.99
2 **TITO** (33) 11.07.85
20 Emiliano **VELAZQUEZ** (Uru) (24) 30.04.94

MIDFIELDERS
27 Santi **COMESANA** (22) 05.10.96
6 Gorka **ELUSTONDO** (31) 18.03.87
18 Alvaro **GARCIA** (26) 27.10.92
12 Giannelli **IMBULA** (Fra) (26) 12.09.92
10 Gael **KAKUTA** (DRC) (27) 21.06.91
4 Alvaro **MEDRAN** (24) 15.03.94
7 Alex **MORENO** (25) 08.06.93
22 Jose Angel **POZO** (22) 15.03.96

FORWARDS
15 Alex **ALEGRIA** (26) 10.10.92
19 Lass **BANGOURA** (Gui) (26) 30.03.92
14 **BEBE** (Por) (28) 12.07.90
9 Raul **DE TOMAS** (24) 17.10.94
11 Adri **EMBARBA** (26) 07.05.92
24 Javi **GUERRA** (36) 15.03.82
29 Sergio **MORENO** (19) 01.01.99
8 Oscar **TREJO** (Arg) (30) 26.04.88

COACH
MICHEL (43) 30.10.75

REAL BETIS

GOALKEEPERS
13 Pau **LOPEZ** (23) 13.12.94
1 Joel **ROBLES** (28) 17.06.90

DEFENDERS
19 Antonio **BARRAGAN** (31) 12.06.87
5 Marc **BARTRA** (27) 15.01.91
4 Zouhair **FEDDAL** (Mor) (29) 01.01.89
20 Junior **FIRPO** (22) 22.08.96
23 Aissa **MANDI** (Alg) (27) 22.10.91
12 **SIDNEI** (Bra) (29) 23.08.89

MIDFIELDERS
10 Ryad **BOUDEBOUZ** (Alg) (28) 19.02.90
6 Sergio **CANALES** (27) 16.02.91
14 William **CARVALHO** (Por) (26) 07.04.92
2 **FRANCIS** Guerrero (22) 11.02.96
18 Andres **GUARDADO** (Mex) (32) 28.09.86
3 Javi **GARCIA** (31) 08.02.87
8 Takashi **INUI** (Jap) (30) 02.06.88
17 **JOAQUIN** (37) 21.07.81
21 Giovani **LO CELSO** (Arg) (22) 09.04.96

FORWARDS
7 Sergio **LEON** (29) 06.01.89
16 Loren **MORON** (24) 30.12.93
9 Antonio **SANABRIA** (Par) (22) 04.03.96
11 Cristian **TELLO** (27) 11.08.91

COACH
Quique **SETIEN** (60) 27.09.58

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS
13 Kiko **CASILLA** (32) 02.10.86
25 Thibaut **COURTOIS** (Blg) (26) 11.05.92
1 Keylor **NAVAS** (CR) (31) 15.12.86
30 Luca **ZIDANE** (Fra) (20) 13.05.98

DEFENDERS
2 Daniel **CARVAJAL** (26) 11.01.92
12 **MARCELO** (Bra) (30) 12.05.88
6 **NACHO** (28) 18.01.90
19 Alvaro **ODRIOZOLA** (22) 14.12.95
4 Sergio **RAMOS** (32) 30.03.86
23 Sergio **REGUILON** (21) 16.12.96
3 Jesus **VALLEJO** (21) 05.01.97
5 Raphael **VARANE** (Fra) (25) 25.04.93

MIDFIELDERS
20 Marco **ASENSIO** (22) 21.01.96
14 **CASEMIRO** (Bra) (26) 23.02.92
24 Dani **CEBALLOS** (22) 07.08.96
22 **ISCO** (26) 21.04.92
8 Toni **KROOS** (Ger) (28) 04.01.90
18 Marcos **LLORENTE** (23) 30.01.95
10 Luka **MODRIC** (Cro) (36) 09.09.85
15 Fede **VALVERDE** (Uru) (20) 22.07.98
17 Lucas **VAZQUEZ** (26) 01.07.91

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(ages as of 02.11.18)

Clash...Feyenoord's Jean-Paul Boetius (centre) and Renato Tapia battle with Joel Veltman of Ajax

FEYENOORD v AJAX

Holland's De Klassieker is a tale of two contrasting cities

"While Amsterdam dreams, Rotterdam works" is a phrase often used to describe the differing mindset of Holland's two biggest cities – and that sentiment could equally be applied to their respective football teams.

Playing what was to become known as "Total Football", coach Rinus Michels' Ajax dominated European football in the early 1970s with a style and flair that the club's supporters saw as a reflection of Amsterdam's cultural sophistication.

In the working-class port of Rotterdam, however, such brash behaviour is deemed arrogant and aloof, and Feyenoord fans pride themselves on their club and their city having a strong work ethic.

In 1970 Feyenoord became the first Dutch side to win the European Cup, but the greatest moment in their history would soon be brushed aside as Ajax lifted the Champions Cup for the next three consecutive seasons.

The chief architect of those triumphs was Holland's greatest player of all time, Johan Cruyff. Yet a decade later he took a decision that would shock the whole of Dutch football.

Having returned to Amsterdam towards the end of his illustrious playing career, Cruyff was furious when Ajax refused to offer him a new contract in the summer of 1983. Determined to play on, his angry response was to storm off and sign for Feyenoord – and then go on to lead the club to a league and cup double at the age of 37.

Relations between the two clubs have deteriorated steadily over the years and the ill-feeling has, unfortunately, often led to horrific scenes of violence, with the worst case being in 1997 when an Ajax fan was killed in clashes between rival supporters. WS

Shock...Johan Cruyff (right) playing for Feyenoord

CLASSIC ENCOUNTERS

1921 Oct 9
The first meeting between the two sides was played in Rotterdam and initially won 3-2 by Ajax. However, after Feyenoord protested about one of the visitors' goals, the score was officially declared a 2-2 draw.

1966 Jan 9
A record attendance for the fixture of 65,562 watched a 1-1 draw in Rotterdam.

1983 Sep 18
Feyenoord, with Johan Cruyff in their side, are thrashed 8-2 in Amsterdam but still end up winning the league and cup.

2018 Jan 21
Ajax win 2-0 in the Eredivisie to increase their record against their rivals in all competitions to 85 wins, 48 draws and 58 defeats prior to this season.

Big draw...Feyenoord's Coen Moulijn (left) and Wim Suurbier of Ajax in 1966

ON BOTH SIDES

JOHAN CRUYFF
● 1964-73, 1981-83; (coach) 1985-88
● 1983-84

WIM JANSEN
● 1965-80; (coach) 1990-93
● 1980-81, 1981-82

JOHNNY REP
● 1971-75
● 1984-86

LEO BEENHAKKER
● (coach) 1979-81, 1989-91
● (coach) 1997-2000

RONALD KOEMAN
● 1983-86; (coach) 2001-05
● 1995-97; (coach) 2011-14

KENNETH VERMEER
● 2005-14
● 2014-present

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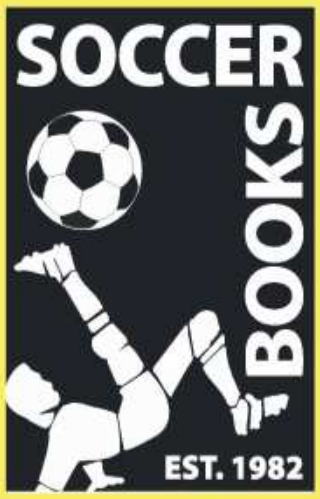

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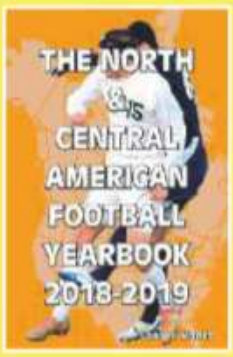

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